

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

HISTORY

OF

FORD COUNTY ILLINOIS

FROM ITS EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO 1908

BY E. A. GARDNER

ILLUSTRATED WITH PORTRAITS AND VIEWS

With Biographical Sketches of some
Prominent Citizens of the County.

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PREFACE.

In presenting this history of Ford county to the public I desire to return my thanks to the many citizens of the county who have so willingly contributed valuable data for this work. I also wish to give due acknowledgment to the historical matter contained in the Atlas of Ford County published in 1884, from which a large portion of the pioneer facts has been compiled. Due acknowledgment is also made for the valuable pioneer data contained in "Remembrances of a Pioneer," by Mrs. Jane Patton, of Button township, and published by her in 1904. Much of the data has been compiled directly from the files and records of the county clerk and circuit clerk's offices.

E. A. G.





E. A. GARDNER

HISTORY OF FORD COUNTY, ILLINOIS

THE ABORIGINES.

It is clearly demonstrated by the numerous and well authenticated accounts of antiquities found in various parts of this county that a people civilized, and considerably cultivated, at least as compared with the Indian, occupied this great land before its possession by the red man of later history, but their "day and generation" lie buried in the deepest obscurity.

Nature, at the time of the discovery of America by Columbus in 1492, had asserted her original dominion over the land; the forests were in their full luxuriance—the growth of many centuries, and nothing remained to point out who and what they were who once lived and loved, labored and died on the continent of America.

This race with an unwritten history is known as the Mound-Builders. The remains of the works of this people form the most interesting class of antiquities discovered in the United States.

These mounds consist of what once apparently were villages, altars, temples, idols, cemeteries, monuments, camps, fortifications, pleasure grounds, etc.

Were the Mound-Builders the ancestors of the Indians or who were they? What were their customs? Whence came they? What is their history? The oblivion which has closed over them is complete, and only conjecture can be given in answer to these questions.

Mr. Breckenridge, who examined the antiquities of the western country in 1817, says: "The great number and extremely large size of some of them may be regarded as furnishing, with other circumstances, evidences of their antiquity. I have sometimes been induced to think that during the period when they were constructed there was a population here as numerous as that which once animated the borders of the Nile or Euphrates or of Mexico. The most numerous, as well as considerable, of these remains are found in precisely those parts of the country where the traces of a numerous population might be looked for, namely, from the mouth of the Ohio on the east side of the Missis-

sippi to the Illinois river, and on the west from the St. Francis to the Missouri. I am perfectly satisfied that cities similar to those of ancient Mexico, of several hundred thousand souls, have existed in this country."

To describe these mound-builders is now impossible. We only know the red men, who occupied this country when the French, English and Spanish came to visit the land and trade for peltries, and had not even a tradition of them.

It is generally conceded that whatever the uses of these mounds—whether for homes for the living or burial places for the dead—these voiceless landmarks of the silent past were built, and the race who built them disappeared from the face of the earth ages before the Indians occupied the land, but their date must probably remain as a sealed volume of history. The names of their mighty chieftains, their deeds of valor, their marches with faithful followers to a

—————"Glory bed,
Or to glorious victory,"

have not been preserved by the historian and tradition is silent.

EARLY DISCOVERIES.

In October, 1665, Father Claude Allouez landed on the southwestern shore of Lake Superior, at a place called by the Indians Chegoimegon.

Here he found a number of the Algonquin tribes assembled preparatory to an incursion into the territory of the Sioux.

The good father persuaded them to abandon their preparations for war. He then erected the chapel which he named the "Mission of the Holy Ghost," at the place since called "Lapointe du Saint Esperit," and began his work as missionary.

To this spot came the roving Pottawattamies, Sacs, Foxes, the Kickapoos, the Illinois and Miamis, prompted by curiosity, and here they first heard the preaching of Christianity.

In Father Allouez, they beheld a champion of human rights, and to him they narrated their griefs by first speaking of their former grandeur, and then of their diminished numbers from hostile visitations from the Sioux on the west and the Iroquois on the east. The gentle and pious Marquette three years later took the place of Allouez.

Just previous to this time, however, possession of the country was taken in the name of the French government. For this event Allouez and Joliet summoned the chiefs of no less than fourteen tribes and bands at St. Mary's.

It was well known that a great river crossed southward through the country. The first white man who set foot on the soil of this state was Nicholas Perrot, a Frenchman. He was sent to Chicago in the year 1671, for the purpose of inviting the western Indians to a peace convention at Green Bay. One object of this meeting was to form a plan for the discovery of the Mississippi river. This river had been discovered by De Sota nearly one hundred and thirty years before, but his nation left it without further explorations.

Father Marquette and Joliet obtained leave to start on an expedition for the purpose of bringing to light the mysteries of this river.

These two distinguished men started from St. Ignace, a small missionary station on the north shore of the straits of Mackinaw.

Two birch bark canoes, five men, a bag of corn meal, some dried beef and a blanket for each constituted their outfit.

Their route late along the north shore of Lake Michigan, and the west bank of Green Bay. They passed through the waters of Lake Winnebago and thence accompanied by Indian guides, continued up the Fox river to the carrying place across to the Wisconsin. Here their Indian guides refused to go farther, and returned whence they came. Down this stream they passed amid the silent grandeur of its forests, and under the cedar-crested precipices of solid rock. No mark of human life was apparent along its shores.

On the 17th of June, 1673, they found themselves on the broad surface of the Mississippi. The banks were less precipitous than the bold headlines of the Wisconsin, and as they passed down the stream, the country looked more promising. Herds of buffalo were seen grazing on the open prairies.

Not until they neared the mouth of the Des Moines did they discover any evidence of human beings. Noticing footprints on the river's banks they left the canoes in charge of the five men. Marquette and Joliet fearlessly took the Indian path, and after two leagues' travel, came in sight of their villages. The meeting proved a friendly one. The Indians were of the Illinois tribe. They gave the missionaries a dinner of fish, roast buffalo and hominy. They resumed their journey but did not meet with any more Indians until reaching what is now the state of Kentucky. Landing on the left bank of the river, just below the mouth of the Ohio, they met with what was evidently a roving band of warriors from the far distant borders of civilization on the Atlantic coast. They were armed with guns, but were peaceably disposed, and received the voyagers kindly. The adventurers passed down the river till the mouth of the Arkansas was reached. Here again they met Indians, savage as nature could make them. The young men showed a disposition to take the lives of

our little party of travelers at once, but were restrained by the older men of the tribe. Finally a friendly meeting was had. From their new hosts, they ascertained that the mouth of the Mississippi was but ten days' travel distant. The intense heat of the month of July and fears of being picked up by Spanish adventurers caused them to conclude their explorations at this point. They had passed below where De Sota had discovered and crossed the Mississippi in 1541, which was one hundred and thirty-two years previous. No trace, not even a tradition of De Sota's work remained. The object of Marquette and Joliet's expedition had been fulfilled. They had discovered the great river and determined whether it emptied into the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Ocean.

On the 17th of July they took leave of their doubtful friends and turned their canoes up stream. It is difficult for any person not familiar with the current of a great river to comprehend the task before them. Patient toiling at the oar finally brought them to the mouth of the Illinois river. Here they met with the Kaskaskias, who offered to conduct them by a more convenient route, which proved to be by the Illinois, the Des Plaines, and the Chicago rivers.

On the Illinois river, especially along the shores of Peoria lake, were the principal villages of the Illinois. There were also bands of the same tribe in the vicinity of Starved Rock, near the present site of Utica.

Marquette preached to these warriors, who manifested a commendable interest in what he had to say to them. When the little company of adventurers passed on to Chicago, a large delegation of the Indians accompanied them, where they arrived in September. The Indians attached much importance to the little inlet stream called Chicago, and these French voyagers were eager to see the river, and still more eager to look upon the lake whose waters would afford a new route to their friends in northern Wisconsin.

On the marshy banks of the little stream where now stands the city of Chicago these two bands bade each other adieu.

The Frenchmen took their course along the western shore of the lake and soon arrived at the Mission of Green Bay.

On the 25th of October, of the following year, Marquette, with two companions, Perre and Jacques, and a band of Indians, started on their mission to preach the gospel to the Illinois. Accomplishing his mission he started on his return to Canada in the spring of 1675, his health having failed because of exposure to the winter storms. Arriving at Sleeping Bear Point on the eastern shore of the lake, he had become too much prostrated to proceed farther. His two companions built a hut of bark and did all they could to make

him comfortable. Here he died and was buried, a large wooden cross marking his resting place.

In 1679, La Salle, a French explorer, sailed to Green Bay and from there his party proceeded in canoes to the mouth of the St. Joseph river, on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. Here he established a trading-post with the Miamis. He then ascended the St. Joseph, crossed to the Kankakee and sailed down until he reached an Illinois village.

He formed an alliance with the tribe, and early in 1680 began near the present Peoria a post which he called Fort Crevecoeur. His chief object was to trade in furs. Accompanying him were several priests, and among them was Father Hennepin, who, with two companions, started to explore the upper Mississippi, and were taken prisoners by the Sioux. After an extended experience with the Indians, he was permitted to return to Green Bay. La Salle was finally assassinated after his second visit to Illinois, while exploring the lower Mississippi. The first mission in Illinois, as we have already seen, was established by Marquette. The first military occupation of the state was at Fort Crevecoeur, by La Salle. There is, however, no evidence that a settlement was commenced at those early dates.

The first settlement of which there is any authentic account was commenced with the building of Fort St. Louis, on the Illinois river, in 1682, but this was soon abandoned. The oldest permanent settlement, not only in Illinois, but in the valley of the Mississippi, is at Kaskaskia, situated six miles above the mouth of the Kaskaskia river. This was settled in 1690, by the removal of the mission from old Kaskaskia, or Fort St. Louis, on the Illinois river. Cahokia was settled about the same time.

Illinois came into full possession of the French in 1682, and was a dependency of Canada and a part of Louisiana. During the period of French rule in Louisiana, the population probably never exceeded ten thousand.

To the year 1730 the following five distinct settlements were made in the territory of Illinois, numbering in population one hundred and forty French families, about six hundred "converted" Indians, and many traders: Cahokia, near the mouth of Cahokia creek and about five miles below the present city of St. Louis; St. Philip, about forty-five miles below Cahokia; Fort Chartres, twelve miles above Kaskaskia; Kaskaskia, situated on the Kaskaskia river, six miles above its confluence with the Mississippi; and Prairie du Rocher, near Fort Chartres. Fort Chartres was built in 1718, and was for a time the headquarters of the military commandants of the district of Illinois, and the most impregnable fortress in North America. For about eighty years the French retained peaceable possession of Illinois. For more than a hundred

years peace between the white man and the red man was unbroken, and when at last this reign of harmony terminated, it was not caused by the conciliatory Frenchman, but by the blunt and sturdy Anglo-Saxon. During the century now under consideration, no regular court was held by the French occupants. In 1765, the country passed into the hands of the English. As early as 1750, there could be perceived the first throes of the Revolution, which gave a new master and new institutions to Illinois.

THE INDIANS.

The opinion prevails that the inhabitants of North America who followed the mound-builders were those who reared the great cities, the ruins of which are found in Central America. It is undoubtedly true that this people was far more civilized and advanced in arts than were the mound-builders. If we are to judge of these cities by their ruins of broken columns, fallen arches and crumbling walls of temples, palaces and pyramids, which in some places bestrew the ground, they must have been cities of great extent, magnificent and very populous. Then to consider the time required to bring them to their present ruined condition we must conclude that the date of their building was far in the past.

The Indians, believed to be the third race inhabiting North America, are distinct in every particular from the former two. Their origin is also enveloped in mystery. Neither had they any traditions respecting their predecessors. They knew absolutely nothing about them, consequently they must have been successors of a race which had entirely passed away before the Indian made his appearance on this continent. There are several widely different opinions expressed at length in the various histories of the North American Indian as to their origin, but as already stated, mystery surrounds their beginning as a race, and the opinions expressed are largely a matter of speculation. A quite common supposition, well expressed in Chapman's history, is that "they are a derivative race and sprang from one or more of the ancient peoples of Asia.

"In the absence of all authentic history, and when even tradition is wanting, any attempt to point out the particular location of their origin must prove unsatisfactory. Though the exact place of origin may never be known, yet the striking coincidence of physical organization between the oriental type of mankind and the Indians point unmistakably to some part of Asia as the place whence they emigrated, which was originally peopled to a great extent by the children of Shem. In this connection, it has been claimed that a meeting of

the Europeans, Indians and Africans on the continent of America, is the fulfillment of a prophecy as recorded in Genesis, ix, 27: 'God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.' Assuming the theory to be true that the Indian tribes are of Shemitic origin, they were met on this continent in the fifteenth century by the Japhethic race, after the two stocks had passed around the globe by directly different routes. A few years afterward the Hamatic branch of the human family were brought from the coast of Africa.

"During the occupancy of the continent by the three distinct races, the children of Japheth have grown and prospered, while the called and not voluntary sons of Ham have endured a servitude in the wider stretching valleys of the tents of Shem."

Ridpath, in his history of the United States, says: "The origin of the North American Indian is involved in complete obscurity. That they are one of the older races of mankind cannot be doubted. But at what date or by what route they came to the western continent is an unsolved problem. The notion that the Indians are the descendants of the Israelites is absurd. That half-civilized tribes wandering from beyond the Euphrates should reach North America, surpasses human credulity."

No doubt all of us, having in our school days read the stories of Indian wars, were under the impression that the various tribes peopled this country quite densely, so that wherever the pioneer might travel in this newly discovered land, the red man with bow and arrow, tomahawk and scalping knife, glared upon him from every thicket and stealthily glided through the tall grasses of the prairie watching the white man's course.

But it is the opinion of the best authorities that when America was discovered in 1492, the whole continent was thinly populated, as compared with the present time, by roving bands or tribes of Indians.

In some few regions, a considerable degree of civilization and skill in agriculture had been obtained in Mexico and Peru.

The number of Indians in this country, when permanent settlements began to be made, is not known, but probably amounted in all the vast territory, as estimated by well informed writers, to only a few millions—perhaps two or three.

As almost every one knows, these were called Indians by the Europeans from the erroneous idea of Columbus and the men of that age, that there was only one continent; and that they had reached the eastern shore of Asia when America was discovered.

The whole region comprising our country was in the possession of a great number of these tribes. They divided the country between them in an indefinite way, war and hunting being their chief occupations. They, generally speaking, attempted a very little cultivation of the soil.

The settlements of Indians were as indefinite and movable as their boundaries, and they attached very little value to land. Territory was acquired from them partly by force and partly by purchase.

The last was usually made for a nominal sum and with little comprehension, on their part, of the importance and future effects of its alienation. Historians have classified the Indian families or nations as follows:

1. The Esquimaux, inhabiting the country from Labrador to Alaska. The name means the eaters of raw meat.

2. The Algonquins, who occupied the country extending from Nova Scotia south of the James river, thence west to the mouth of the Ohio, and thence northward along the east side of the Mississippi and on to Lake Winnipeg, excepting that portion which was occupied by the Huron-Iroquois, as hereafter described.

3. The Huron-Iroquois, a powerful nation, occupied a tract of country within that of the Algonquins. Their borders extended over the country reaching from Georgian bay and Lake Huron to Lakes Erie and Ontario, south of those lakes to the valley of the upper Ohio, and eastward to the river Sorel.

4. The Appalachians inhabited that portion of the country south of the Algonquins, and east of the Mississippi.

5. The Dakotas, called by the French Sioux, occupied a district of country west of the Mississippi and north of the Missouri and Platte rivers.

6. The Shoshones, occupying the country south and west of the Dakotas. It will be understood that these nations were again divided into many tribes each, speaking different dialects of the common language, by which the main group was distinguished. As a general rule, Indians, when asked their name, gave the term, Men or Real Men. Each tribe had a name, generally that of the animal or object which was the totem of the tribe. By referring to the foregoing description of the territory occupied by the Algonquins, it will be observed that our state was, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, under the jurisdiction of that nation. The Algonquin tribes occupying the western part of the country thus allotted to this nation, were the several tribes of the Illinois and Miami confederacies, the Pottawattamies, the Kickapoos and scattered bands of Shawnees and Delawares.

THE ILLINOIS.

From the accounts, the Illinois seems to have laid claim to quite an extensive tract of country, the eastern boundary thereof being the ridge that divides the waters that flow into the Wabash above the headwaters of Saline creek, from those flowing into the Illinois river, the northern limit being a line from the mouth of the Des Plaines river westward beyond the Mississippi. On the north, the Illinois for a long time contested their boundary line with the Chipeways, Winnebagoes, Sacs and Foxes. Afterward, the Sacs, Foxes and Kickapoos, assisted by the Pottawattamies, became the successful invaders of the land of the Illinois. On the east came the Miamis, who in language and manners much resembled the Illinois, with whom they originally bore a close affinity.

General Harrison stated that "the Illinois confederacy was composed of five tribes: The Kaskaskias, Cahokias, Peorians, Michigans and the Tamarois."

It is authoritatively stated that the Algonquin language, as spoken by the Ojibways, was regarded as the court language, so, if a person fell among a strange tribe, whose language he did not understand and spoke this language, they were bound, as a general rule, to furnish some one who could communicate with him in that language. It was through this language that Marquette spoke with all the tribes, and so it was with all the early French travelers. Of all states in the Union, the following have Indian names: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Alabama, Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Illinois, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Oregon, the most of these being derived from great rivers or other waters.

The first accounts we have of the Illinois are given by the Jesuit missionaries. In the "Relations" for the year 1655, it is stated that the Illinois are neighbors of the Winnebagoes; and again, the following year it was reported "that the Illinois nation dwell more than sixty leagues from here, and beyond a great river, which as near as can be conjectured, flows into the sea toward Virginia. These people are warlike. They use the bow, rarely the gun, and never the canoe." At this time the Illinois and Miamis were living west of the Mississippi, the reference being to this river. While the Illinois were like their brethren of a roving nature, they were not so much so as other tribes.

Their favorite portions of the state seemed to be along the Illinois river, and on the Mississippi from the Kaskaskia to where Cairo now stands. Beekwith, in describing them, says: "In form they were tall and lithe. They

were noted for their swiftness of foot. They wore moccasins prepared from buffalo hides, and a small covering extending from the waist to the knee. The rest of the body was entirely nude."

The art of hunting not only supplied the Indian with food, but, like that of war, was a means of gratifying his love of distinction.

The male children were early taught the use of the bow and arrow. They were as carefully trained in hunting and Indian warfare as are the boys and girls of our time in the elements of reading, writing and arithmetic.

The dwellings were simple and rude in character. A pleasant spot was selected by the river or near a spring, and here they raised their groups of wigwams, constructed chiefly of the bark of trees. The skins of animals served for beds and wearing apparel. Depending principally on the chase for subsistence, this being, somewhat uncertain, they were led to cultivate small patches of corn.

Commerce or an interchange of articles being almost unknown, every family did everything necessary within itself to provide food and comfort.

When disputes or dissensions arose, each Indian relied upon himself to adjust the difficulty. Blood for blood was the rule, and the relatives of the slain man were bound to obtain bloody revenge. The result of this was bitter feuds and wars of extermination.

War was the Indian's glory and delight; not war after the civilized rule, but war where individual skill, endurance, gallantry and cruelty were the prime requisites. During the intervals of his more exciting pursuits the Indian employed his time in decorating his person with all the refinement of paint and feathers, and in the manufacture of his arms and of canoes.

The main drudgery and labor of Indian communities fell upon the women. They planted, tended and gathered the crops, made mats and baskets, carried the burdens on the march—in fact they were but little better than slaves to the "braves."

The area of the country originally claimed by the Illinois was reduced by wars with their neighbors. The Sioux forced them eastward, and the four tribes already named encroached upon them from the north, and war parties from the Iroquois on the east rapidly lessened their numbers.

The Illinois confederacy was in a decline when they first came in contact with the French, of which mention is hereafter made.

The misfortunes of the Illinois drew them so kindly to the priests, the *coureurs des bois* and soldiers, that the friendship between the two races never abated.

The fatal dissolution of the Illinois rapidly proceeded, and their territory was largely appropriated by the Sacs, Foxes, Kickapoos and Pottawattamies.

By successive treaties, their remaining lands in this state were ceded to the United States, and they were removed west of the Mississippi. In 1872, there remained of them but forty souls—men, women and children all told.

Thus has disappeared the people who at one time occupied the larger part of Illinois and portions of Iowa and Missouri. In the year 1784 their single village at La Salle's colony could muster twelve hundred fighting men. When they were prosperous, at one time they nearly exterminated the Winnebagoes, and their war parties have penetrated the country of the Huron-Iroquois as far as the Mohawk and Genesee.

THE POTTAWATTAMIES.

The country of the Miamis, as has already been stated, extended west to the watershed between the Illinois and Wabash rivers, forming the eastern boundaries of the Illinois tribes. To the north of the Miamis were the Pottawattamies, who were steadily encroaching upon the territory of the Miamis.

The Miamis held their own until they obtained possession of firearms, but the Illinois could not withstand their foes so long.

In regard to the Pottawattamies, it is stated in an official letter to the secretary of war, March 22, 1814: "So long ago as 1795, at the treaty of Greenville, the Pottawattamies notified the Miamis that they intended to settle upon the Wabash." They made no pretensions to the country, and the only excuse for the intended aggression was that they were tired of eating fish and wanted meat. And they did come. They established villages upon the north and west bank of the Wabash and its tributaries flowing in from that side of the stream above the Vermilion.

They, with the Sacs, Foxes and Kickapoos, drove the Illinois into the villages about Kaskaskia and divided the conquered territory among themselves, the Sacs and Foxes choosing that part to the north and west of the Illinois river. It is said that by the other tribes they were called squatters, who justly claimed that the Pottawattamies never had any land of their own and were only intruders. They were, however, foremost at all treaties and were clamorous for the lion's share of presents and annuities, particularly where the price given was for other's lands rather than their own. They also had villages upon the Illinois and Kankakee rivers.

After the Kickapoos and Pottawattamies had established themselves in the

valley of the Wabash, it was mutually agreed between them and the Miamis that the river should be the dividing line, the two first-named tribes to occupy the west side of the stream.

The Pottawattamies and Kickapoos were among the last to leave their possessions in Illinois and Indiana, and it was the people of these tribes with whom the settlers of this section of the country came principally in contact. They ceased hostilities at the close of the war of 1812. The Pottawattamies owned extensive tracts of land on the Wabash, also on the Tippecanoe and other western tributaries of the Wabash, and elsewhere in northwestern Indiana, eastern Illinois and southern Michigan. The greater part of these reservations were retroceded to the United States, in exchange either for annuities or lands west of the Mississippi. As has already been noted, the Indians became greatly attached to the French. An Indian reservation on the Des Plaines river, in Cook county, was occupied by a band of Pottawattamies, whose chief was Alexander Robinson, the son of a Canadian voyageur and a Pottawattamie woman.

His place was generally lively with Indians in the declining glories of their latter days. Groups of blanketed squaws, with their papooses slung on their backs, and an equal number of braves, bedaubed with paint and ornamented with feathers, hung around his home in listless dalliance. During the summer season their numbers were increased by visiting braves and their families from other reservations.

Being half Indian and having a wife of the same race, he was shut out from civilized society generally, but his character for integrity and his reputation for excellence in those qualifications which make up the model citizen were widely published. When his tribe was removed, after carefully weighing the matter, he chose civilized life, considering this for the children's best good. He continued to live on the reservation and became a farmer, esteemed by all who knew him.

The final emigration of the Pottawattamies from the Wabash took place in the summer of 1838, and in 1846, the various bands of this great tribe were united west of the Mississippi, except a few scattered bands like the one mentioned, who remained long after the departure of their brethren.

In 1863, the tribe numbered two thousand two hundred and seventy-four men, women and children, which was an alarming decrease from the census of 1854, owing, no doubt, largely to two reasons—the return of many to their former home east of the Mississippi, and many of the younger men going west to the buffalo grounds.

The Pottawattamies attested their fidelity to the government by the volunteering of seventy-five of their young men to service in the war of 1861.

THE KICKAPOOS.

The Kickapoos, when first met by the whites, inhabited the state of Wisconsin, but with the Sacs and Foxes gradually moved southward until they came in contact with the Illinois. Then uniting with the Pottawattamies in a warfare upon the Miamis and Illinois, they steadily drove these two tribes from a great portion of the territory occupied by them.

The Kickapoos early incurred the displeasure of the French by committing depredations upon the missionaries and others. It is said of this tribe that they were not inclined to receive religious impressions from the early missionaries.

Prior to 1718, the Kickapoos had villages upon the banks of the Rock river and the Illinois. They are described as a clever people and brave warriors. Their language and manners strongly resembled those of the Foxes. "They catch deer by chasing them, and even at this day (1718) make considerable use of bows and arrows."

Their progress south and west was no doubt largely owing to the fierce attacks of the Sioux, who were pressing on them from the northwest. The Kickapoos and the Foxes, meditating a migration to the Wabash as a place of security from the Sioux, the French became alarmed lest their tribes should effect a junction with the Iroquois and English. The matter was adjusted by the French conciliating the Sioux, and for a number of years the Foxes and Kickapoos remained upon their old hunting grounds in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The theory has been advanced that the Mascoutins and Kickapoos were bands of one tribe, first known to the French by the former name, and subsequently to the English by the latter, under which name alone they figure in our later annals. This theory has been adopted for the purposes of this sketch. Another noticeable fact is, that with one exception, the Mascoutins were never known as such in any treaty with the United States, while the Kickapoos were parties to many. In warfare, the Kickapoos were inferior to the other tribes in movements requiring large numbers of men, but in predatory warfare they were preeminent. Their war parties usually numbered from five to twenty-five persons. The boldness and daring of these small parties were very great. They would sometimes push out hundreds of miles from their villages and attack a feeble settlement or an isolated cabin,

burn the buildings, steal the live-stock, capture the women and children, and then escape before a general alarm could be given.

The Kickapoos were noted for their fondness for horses. They exhibited great skill and daring in stealing them.

Their principal enemies seemed to be the Illinois, and after driving the latter into the southwestern part of the state, it is related that as late as 1789 to 1796, their war parties kept the white settlements and the Illinois tribes in the vicinity of Kaskaskia in a state of continual alarm. During the time stated, they killed and captured many of that tribe, as well as a number of the whites.

After the close of the Pontiac war, the Kickapoos and Pottawattamies almost annihilated the Kaskaskias, a band of the Illinois, at a place called Battle Ground Creek, between Kaskaskia and Shawneetown. The principal towns of the Kickapoos were on the left bank of the Illinois, near Peoria, and on the Vermilion of the Wabash, and at several points on the west bank of the Wabash. On the prairie they also had villages west of Charleston, Illinois, and in many of the groves scattered over the prairies in the section of country bounded on the north by the Kankakee river, on the east by the Wabash, and on the west by the Illinois, extending south to the Kaskaskia. The most notable were their towns at Elkhart Grove, twelve miles north of Bloomington, and at Oliver's Grove in Livingston county, Illinois. Consequently that tract of country of which Ford county is a part must have been the hunting grounds of the Kickapoos after the removal of the Illinois tribes.

These people became greatly attached to the country drained by the Vermilion of the Wabash and its tributaries, and General Harrison had much difficulty in securing their consent to cede it to the general government.

The Kickapoos were at the battle of Tippecanoe in considerable numbers, and fought with frenzied courage. During the war of 1812, they sided with the English, and sent out numerous war parties that kept the settlements in Illinois and Indiana territories in constant danger.

When the latter war closed, the Kickapoos ceased active hostilities upon the whites, and within a few years afterward disposed of their lands in this state and Indiana, and with the exception of a few bands, removed west of the Mississippi.

Beckwith, an excellent authority, says of them: "As compared with other Indians, the Kickapoos were industrious, intelligent, and cleanly in their habits, and were better armed and clothed than the other tribes. The men, as a rule, were tall, sinewy and active; the women were lithe, and many of them

by no means lacking in beauty. Their dialect was soft and liquid, as compared with the rough and guttural language of the Pottawattamies. They kept aloof from the white people as a rule, and in this way preserved their characteristics, and contracted fewer of the vices of the white man than other tribes. Their numbers were never great, as compared with the Miamis or Pottawattamies; however, they made up for the deficiency in this respect by the energy of their movements."

Thus we have attempted to briefly sketch the red man as he once lived upon these prairies and in the groves but the space for this subject in a work of this character is necessarily quite limited.

To summarize: We first find the Illinois and Miamis occupying this section of the country, with their dividing line running north and south, nearly identical with the range line of our county. Following them came the Kickapoos and Pottawattamies, the former taking the place of the Illinois tribes, except that the Kickapoo villages and hunting grounds extended further east, including the Vermilion of the Wabash and its tributaries.

The Indian came to this country, and now he has left it to return no more. He left the country no better as far as we can judge for having been here.

We find the arrowheads and spearheads, saws, flesh-scrapers, hammers and spades made from stone, and all demanding great patience in their manufacture, because of the lack of suitable implements or machinery to produce them.

It has been stated that the maize or Indian corn which they cultivated to a limited extent, and tobacco are the only contributions made by them to us in the way of products of the soil.

"A noble race, but they are gone;
And we have built our homes upon
Fields where their generations slept."

THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

As early as 1784, Thomas Jefferson, then a member of congress, submitted a plan of government for all the territory from the southern to the northern boundary of the United States, all of which was expected to be ceded by the states claiming the same. By this plan seventeen states were to be formed from this territory.

One of its provisions was "that after the year 1800 there shall be neither

slavery nor involuntary servitude in any of said states, other than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." This provision was rejected, not having seven states in its favor.

This rejected provision was again proposed by Rufus King the following year. The proposition again failed. The ordinance of 1787, embracing in part the plan submitted by Mr. Jefferson in 1874, was reported by Nathan Dane.

The legislative, executive and judicial powers were vested in a governor and three judges, who with the secretary were to be appointed by congress—the governor for three years, the judges during good behavior.

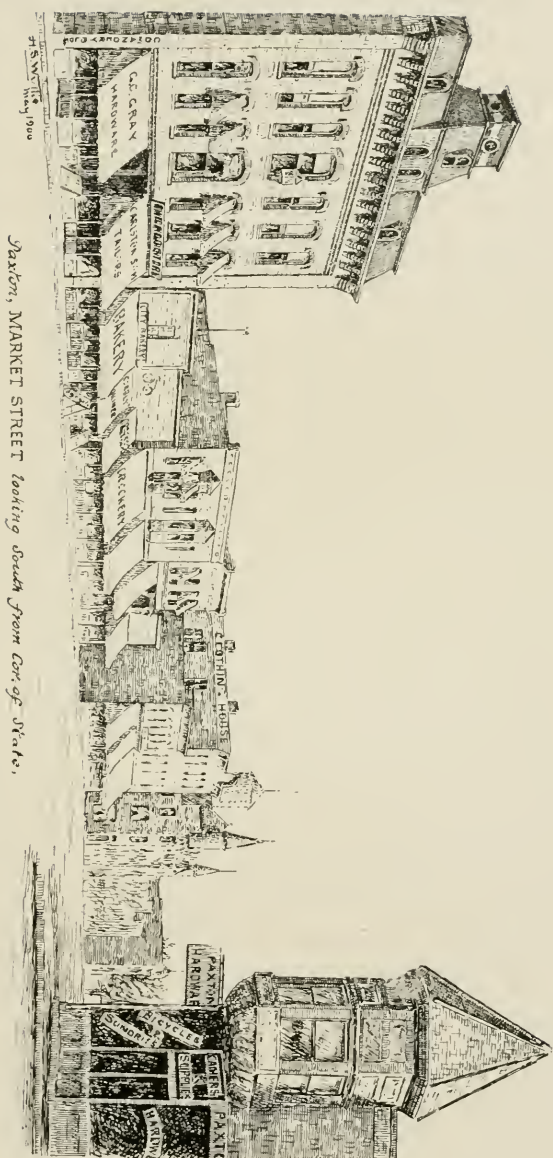
The laws of the territory were to be such laws of the original states as the governor and judges should think proper to adopt. These laws were to be in force until disapproved by congress. When the territory should contain five thousand free male inhabitants of full age, there was to be a legislature, to consist of two branches—a house of representatives, the members to be chosen from the several counties or townships, for the term of two years, and a legislative council of five persons, who were to hold their offices for five years and to be appointed by congress out of ten persons previously nominated by the house of representatives of the territory. All laws were required to be consistent with the ordinance, and to have the assent of the governor.

The ordinance concludes with six articles of compact between the original states and the people of the territory, to be unalterable except by common consent.

The first secured entire religious freedom; the second, trial by jury, the writ of habeas corpus, and the other fundamental rights usually inserted in bills of rights; the third provided for the encouragement and support of schools and enjoined good faith toward the Indians; the fourth placed the new states to be formed out of the territory upon an equal footing with the old ones both in respect to their privileges and their burdens, and reserved to the United States the right to dispose of the soil; the fifth authorized the future division of the territory into not less than three nor more than five states, each state to be admitted into the Union, when it should contain sixty thousand inhabitants; the sixth was the anti-slavery proviso introduced by Thomas Jefferson in 1784, so modified as to take effect immediately.

This ordinance, which left the territory south of the Ohio (then not yet ceded) subject to future regulation, received the unanimous vote of eight states present.

General Arthur St. Clair, who was president of congress, was appointed



Paxton, MARKET STREET looking South from Cor. of State.

military governor, and in the following summer began his duties at Marietta. In the year 1800, a line was drawn through the northwestern territory from the mouth of the great Miami river to Fort Recovery, and thence to Canada.

Two years afterward, the country east of this line was erected in the state of Ohio and admitted into the Union.

The portion west of this line was organized under the name of the Indiana territory. Vincennes was made the capital, and General William Henry Harrison received the appointment of governor. Indiana was admitted into the Union in 1816, near the close of Madison's troubled administration.

The Illinois territory was established February 3, 1809, and it included "all that part of the Indiana territory which lies west of the Wabash river and Post Vincennes due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada."

Kaskaskia was made the seat of government.

John Boyle was appointed governor, but declined to serve. Ninian Edwards was then appointed. He served from April 24, 1809, to December 6, 1818, when he was made United States senator for the new state of Illinois.

ILLINOIS.

Monroe's administration was noted for the great number of new members which were added to the Union. In 1818, Illinois, the twenty-first state, embracing an area of more than fifty-five thousand square miles, and extending through more than five degrees of latitude, was organized and admitted. Two years later, when the general census was taken, Illinois ranked twenty-fourth as to population. From that time up to 1880, her advancement was rapid, and we now find only two states which outrank Illinois in population and wealth. Population of Illinois territory, 1810, twelve thousand two hundred and eighty-two; population of Illinois state, 1820, fifty-five thousand one hundred and sixty-two; population of Illinois state, 1880, three million seventy-eight thousand six hundred and thirty-six; population of Illinois state, 1900, four million and five hundred thousand. Under the Constitution of 1818, the elective officers were the governor and lieutenant governor, who held office for four years. The other state officers were appointed by the governor or chosen by the general assembly.

By the Constitution of 1848, all of the state officers were made elective.

GOVERNORS OF ILLINOIS.

Shadraek Bond,	October 6, 1818
Edward Coles	December 5, 1822
Ninian Edwards	December 6, 1826
John Reynolds	December 9, 1830
William L. D. Ewing	November 17, 1834
Joseph Duncan	December 3, 1834
Thomas Carlin	December 7, 1838
Thomas Ford	December 8, 1842
Augustus C. French	December 9, 1846
Augustus C. French	January 8, 1849
Joel A. Matteson	January 10, 1853
William H. Bissell	January 12, 1857
John Wood	March 21, 1860
Richard Yates	January 14, 1861
Richard J. Oglesby	January 16, 1865
John M. Palmer	January 11, 1869
Richard J. Oglesby	January 13, 1873
John L. Beveridge	January 23, 1873
Shelby M. Cullom	January 8, 1877
Shelby M. Cullom	January 10, 1881
John L. Hamilton	February 6, 1883
Richard J. Oglesby	1885-89
Joseph W. Fifer	1889-93
John P. Altgeld	1893-97
John R. Tanner	1897-01
Richard Yates, son of Richard Yates, the war governor	1901-05
Charles S. Deneen	1905-08

ILLINOIS.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

Geographical Position—Illinois is bounded on the north by Wisconsin, on the east by Lake Michigan, Indiana and Kentucky, on the south by Kentucky and Missouri, and on the west by Missouri and Iowa by the Mississippi. It lies between 37 degrees and 3 minutes and 42 degrees and 30 minutes north latitude, and between 10 degrees and 30 minutes and 14 degrees and 25 min-

utes longitude west from Washington. The greatest breadth of the state from east to west is two hundred and ten miles, and its extreme length from north to south three hundred and seventy-eight miles. The general form of the state is that of an ellipsoid, truncated at its northern extremity. The superficial area is about fifty-five thousand five hundred and thirty-one square miles, or thirty-five million five hundred and thirty-nine thousand eight hundred and forty acres.

Face of the Country—The surface of the country is generally level or gently rolling, although in the southern part near the large rivers it is quite broken and hilly. Illinois is properly termed the prairie state; for, in no other part of the country are there to be found such vast expanses of level prairie as here. To the eye of the observer they mark the plane of the horizon in every direction, and seem limitless as the ocean. As a general rule they occupy the higher grounds. The timber is principally confined to the lower lands, along the breaks and valleys of the streams. The highest lands in the state are in the extreme northwestern part, and are known as the mounds, which are about eleven hundred feet above the level of the sea. From Freeport southward there is a gradual descent through the entire length of the state, except where it is broken by a ridge crossing from east to west through Union, Johnson and Pope counties. This ridge attains an elevation of about nine hundred feet above the sea, while the elevation at Cairo is but three hundred and fifty feet.

Rivers—The general slope of the watershed is to the southwest, and nearly all the principal streams, after a general course in that direction, flow into the Mississippi. A few in the southeast portion of the state empty into the Wabash, while some small ones in the extreme south find their outlet in the Ohio. The largest river flowing through the state is the Illinois, which is formed by the junction of the Des Plaines and Kankakee, the former rising in Wisconsin and the latter in Indiana. The Rock and Kaskaskia rivers are streams of considerable importance, the first running through the northern and the latter through the southern portion of the state. More than three-fourths of the circumference of the state is bounded by navigable rivers, the Wabash on the east, the Ohio on the south, and the Mississippi on the west. The two last named are among the largest of the world, and afford transportation for all classes of steamers. The Mississippi, the great "Father of Waters," extends along the western boundary a distance of over five hundred miles.

Lakes—A remarkable feature of Illinois is the almost entire absence of nat-

ural lakes or ponds. A few small ones only are found in the northeastern and southwestern parts of the state. There is, however, a coast line of about sixty miles, extending along Lake Michigan, one of the largest of the five great North American lakes.

Soil and Climate—As an agricultural state, Illinois stands without an equal. Possessing a soil of unsurpassed fertility, and a climatic range of five and a half degrees of latitude, it yields a greater amount and variety of botanical production than any other state in the Union. No large tracts of worthless lands, such as characterize the topography of all the other states, are to be found here, but the farmer in all portions of the commonwealth obtains a rich reward for his labor. In the northern and central portions of the state are raised in abundance nearly all those plants which are common in the north temperate zone, while in the vicinity of Cairo, both the animal and vegetable productions partake of a semi-tropical character. The amount of rain which falls each year is fully one-half greater at the southern extremity of the state than at the northern, and the average difference in temperature is about ten degrees Fahrenheit.

Minerals—No natural deposits of gold or silver are known to exist; yet the mineral productions of the state are not unimportant. Fire clay, potter's clay, and valuable quarries of building stone are found in various localities. Rich mines of lead exist in the vicinity of Galena, and iron ore in considerable quantities is obtained in the southeastern part of the state. Coal is the most valuable mineral in Illinois. The coal fields are destined to grow more and more important, as their resources are developed, and their value can hardly be overestimated. The coal-bearing strata covers more than two-thirds of the entire surface of the state, and the mines are believed to be inexhaustible.

HISTORY.

Illinois was originally a part of Florida. In 1543 it became a Spanish colony. Northern Illinois was included in the territory granted in 1620 to the Plymouth Company by King James, and was therefore claimed by Great Britain. In 1673 the Mississippi river was discovered by Marquette and Joliet. In the same year they ascended the Illinois river; and in 1679 Robert Cavalier De La Salle made further discoveries, descending the Kankakee to its mouth. Kaskaskia and Cahokia, the oldest towns on the Mississippi river, were settled by the French in 1682. Illinois at this time contained but few white inhabitants. In 1699 it became a part of Louisiana, and so remained

until 1763, when it was ceded to England. The white population now numbered about three thousand, mostly French, the principal settlements being at Kaskaskia, Cahokia, Peoria, Prairie Du Rocher, Prairie Du Pont and Fort Chartres. In 1778 Kaskaskia, Cahokia and other settlements were captured by four companies of Virginians, under Colonel Clarke, and in October of the same year an act was passed by the Virginia legislature, establishing the "County of Illinois," which embraced all of Virginia northwest of Ohio. In 1784 it was ceded by Virginia to the United States, and in 1787 congress passed an ordinance for the government of all territory northwest of the Ohio river, Arthur St. Clair being appointed the first governor. In 1803 Indiana, including Illinois and Wisconsin, was erected into a separate territory, and six years later, the present state of Illinois became a territory by itself. In 1812 it passed from the first to the second grade of territorial government, and sent a delegate to congress. The right of suffrage was at this time extended to the people, without regard to property qualifications. On the 3d of December, 1818, Illinois was admitted into the Union as a sovereign and independent state. One section of land in each township was at once donated for school use, and two townships in the state for the use of a seminary. Since that time, the growth of Illinois has been astonishingly rapid, and it now ranks the fourth state in the Union in wealth, population and importance. The number of its white inhabitants in 1800 was only about 3,000. In 1810 the number had increased to 12,282; in 1820 to 57,000; in 1830 to 157,000; in 1840 to 476,000; in 1850 to 851,470; in 1860 to 1,711,951; in 1865 to 2,141,510; in 1870 to 2,539,891; and in 1880 to 3,077,871. Chicago, its largest city, contains a population of over 2,000,000. The foreign population of Illinois is largely composed of Germans, Irish, Welsh, Scotch, French, Swiss, Swedes, Danes and Poles. Of the American born, the north part of the state is settled principally from New York and New England, the central from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and the southern from Kentucky, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

Internal Improvements—The works of art compare favorably with those of the older states. It has not been a century since Illinois was admitted into the Union, yet the number and value of her internal improvements already completed are immense. Many thousands of miles of railroad lines are in successful operation and more are in the process of construction. The number and character of the splendid edifices which have been erected for courthouses, humane institutions, seminaries of learning and churches, and the other public works which adorn the state, bespeak at once the enterprise, intelligence and moral worth of the people.

Politics—Illinois is at present a republican state. The northern part is almost exclusively controlled by the dominant party, while the central is generally democratic, and the extreme southern—familiarily known as Egypt—is about equally divided between the two parties.

EXPLANATION OF GOVERNMENT SURVEYS.

All the surveys of Illinois are made from three established lines, known as the second, third and fourth principal meridians. The second principal meridian runs due north from the mouth of the Little Blue river in Indiana. The third principal meridian, due north from the mouth of the Ohio river. The fourth principal meridian starts at the mouth of the Illinois river, follows up the stream to a point opposite Beardstown, and runs thence due north.

Townships lying west of the third principal meridian and the Illinois river number north and south from a base-line which runs due west from Beardstown. All the other townships number north and south from a base-line which runs through the center of St. Clair county.

Ranges number from the fourth principal meridian west to the Mississippi river and east to the third principal meridian and the Illinois river, and from the third principal meridian west to the Illinois and Mississippi rivers.

Ranges east of the third principal meridian and north of a line passing through the center of Kankakee county number from said meridian east to the state line. The other ranges number from the third principal meridian, east to the eastern line of range eleven, and west from the second principal meridian to the same line.

Each township is six miles square, and is divided into sections, which number from one to thirty-six; number one being in the northeast corner of the township. Each regular section contains six hundred and forty acres. Fractional townships are occasioned by inaccurate surveys. Fractional sections are due to the same cause, and are usually found on the north and west side of each township. Correction lines, running east and west, are established at distances of about thirty miles apart, for the purpose of preventing such errors as would naturally be occasioned by the curvature of the earth.

THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF ILLINOIS.

Of the varied economic resources of Illinois, only those which are of supreme importance to the state as a whole, such as agriculture, mining, bank-

ing, transportation and manufacturing industries, will be briefly reviewed in this article.

Agriculture is one of the greatest industries of the state. The large yield of those crops for which the state is adapted make ample amends for whatever deficiency there may be in the variety of products. In 1900, out of the total acreage of thirty-two million seven hundred and ninety-four thousand and seven hundred and twenty-eight acres in the state, twenty-seven million six hundred and ninety-nine thousand two hundred and nineteen acres were improved land. In the value of farm property, Illinois leads the list of states with a total value of two billion four million three hundred and sixteen thousand eight hundred and ninety seven dollars. In the value of farm products, Iowa takes the lead with an annual product of three hundred and sixty-five million four hundred and eleven thousand five hundred and twenty eight dollars in comparison with three hundred and forty-five million six hundred and forty-nine thousand six hundred and eleven dollars for Illinois. The improved acreage of the state in 1905 was divided among the various leading crops as follows: Wheat, one million four hundred and forty-seven thousand seven hundred and sixty-four acres; oats, three million two hundred and forty-two thousand seven hundred and sixty-two acres; corn, seven million seven hundred and forty-three thousand three hundred and sixty-one acres; hay, two million five hundred and sixteen thousand seven hundred and ninety-three acres; rye, eighty-seven thousand four hundred and thirty acres; barley, twenty-nine thousand six hundred and sixty-three acres, with four million two hundred and eighty-six thousand two hundred and ninety-six acres in pasture.

Although in acreage of cereals in 1900, Iowa ranked first with sixteen million nine hundred and thirty thousand and ninety-five acres, and Illinois second with sixteen million seven hundred and sixty-nine thousand and ten acres, yet Illinois ranked first in the Union in value of all crops, the valuation being two hundred and twelve million two hundred and seventy-six thousand eight hundred and sixteen dollars, Iowa and Ohio following in order. In value of cereals, Illinois again led with a production valued at one hundred and sixty-four million seven hundred and eighty-four thousand four hundred and thirty seven dollars, Iowa and Ohio following as in the value of all crops. Among specific products, Illinois produced three hundred and ninety-eight million one hundred and forty-nine thousand one hundred and forty bushels of corn, enough to place her fifteen million beyond her nearest competitor in 1900. In the production of oats, the state was likewise twelve million bushels in advance of any other state, with a total production of one hundred and eighty million three

hundred and five thousand six hundred and thirty bushels. In 1900, Illinois produced sixty million six hundred and sixty-five thousand five hundred and twenty pounds of the ninety million nine hundred and forty-seven thousand three hundred and seventy pounds of broom corn produced in the entire United States. The number of tons of hay and forage crops, three million nine hundred and forty-eight thousand five hundred and sixty-three tons, placed Illinois in the sixth place, and in rye, the state ranked eighth. Two hundred and fifty-six thousand two hundred and thirteen acres were devoted to the growing of vegetables, which were produced to the value of ten million three hundred and forty-six thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven dollars. In the number of apple trees, Illinois ranked third among the states, with a production of nine million one hundred and seventy-eight thousand one hundred and fifty bushels apples. These figures show the importance of agriculture in Illinois, and the high position which the state takes among the states of the Union in agricultural products.

Next in importance to agriculture in the natural products of the state is coal. Only one state in the Union surpasses Illinois in value of coal produced. All the coal that is found in this state is bituminous, differing in value at the mines from one dollar and thirty-seven cents per ton for lump coal to fifty-six cents per ton for pea coal. The total output of the state for 1904 was thirty-seven million seventy-seven thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven tons compared with fifteen million six hundred and sixty thousand six hundred and ninety-eight tons in 1891, an increase of nearly twenty-two million tons, or over one hundred and forty per cent. The number of mines in 1904 was nine hundred and thirty-two, an increase of fourteen since 1891, and the number of hands employed in the mines had increased from thirty-two thousand nine hundred and fifty-one to forty-nine thousand three hundred and sixty-one. The total value of the coal at the mines was forty million seven hundred and seventy-four thousand two hundred and twenty-three dollars. In respect to the distribution of the industry over the state, Sangamon county led with a production of four million five hundred and sixteen thousand three hundred and fifty-eight tons, St. Clair county second with three million four hundred and eighteen thousand four hundred and seventy-nine tons and Vermilion county was third with a production of three million one hundred and fourteen thousand and sixty tons. It is a significant fact as showing the extent of the distribution of coal in the state, that out of the one hundred and two counties, fifty-four are coal producing.

No statement of the industrial activity of the state would be complete



CITY HALL, GIBSON CITY

without something being said of the banking business. Banks are so essential to the business world of today, that the volume of their transactions are a fair indication of the business life of the state. During the last few years, Chicago has passed both Philadelphia and Boston in the amount of her clearing-house transactions, the amount of clearances for 1904 being eight billion eight hundred and eight million ninety-three thousand two hundred and sixty-eight dollars. The number of national banks in the state in 1904 was three hundred and twenty-four with a capitalization of forty-eight million eight hundred and eleven thousand dollars, and a surplus of twenty-two million two hundred and eighty-nine thousand dollars. The number of state banks for the same year was two hundred and eighty-five with a capital of thirty-eight million nine hundred and fifty thousand dollars and a surplus of twenty-five million six hundred and thirty thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven dollars. Of the two hundred and eighty-five state banks, one hundred and nineteen were operating savings departments and thirty were exercising trust powers. The number of private banks in 1902 was six hundred and thirty-eight, capitalized at thirteen million twelve thousand one hundred and fifty-three dollars, and having a surplus of two million five hundred and fifty-seven thousand three hundred and two dollars. There were forty-three trust companies in 1904; of this number thirty were operating under the State Banking Act of 1887, three were organized under the Trust Company Act of 1887, with a capital of five million seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars and a surplus of one million one hundred and eighteen thousand four hundred and four dollars, and ten were foreign corporations qualified as trust companies. This makes a grand total of one thousand two hundred and sixty banking institutions in the state with a capital of one hundred and six million five hundred and twenty-three thousand one hundred and fifty-three dollars, and a surplus of fifty-one million five hundred and ninety-five thousand five hundred and thirty-three dollars. These figures when compared with those of 1890 show what an enormous development has taken place in the banking business during the last fourteen years. In 1904, as stated above, there were three hundred and twenty-four national banks; in 1890 there were one hundred and seventy-seven. In 1904, there were two hundred and eighty-five state banks; in 1890 there were forty. In 1902 there were six hundred and thirty-eight private banks; in 1890 there were one hundred and sixty-four. In 1904 there were thirty-three trust companies; in 1890 there were only seventeen. In 1890 there was a grand total of three hundred and eighty-eight banking institutions in the state with a capitalization of twenty-eight million two hundred and sixty-five thousand

three hundred and sixty-three dollars and a surplus of nine million seventy-three thousand four hundred and thirty-two dollars; in 1904 the number was one thousand two hundred and sixty, the capitalization one hundred and six million five hundred and twenty-three thousand one hundred and fifty-three dollars, and the surplus fifty-one million five hundred and ninety-five thousand five hundred and thirty-three dollars, an increase in each of these items of over two hundred and seventy-five per cent. Such increases show not only the increase of banking transactions, but also the great development of all kinds of business to the needs of which the banks respond.

For three decades, Illinois has led in miles of railroad. With abundant supplies of bituminous coal throughout the state, mining, manufacturing and railroads have developed together. There were in 1904 in Illinois eleven thousand six hundred and thirty-six miles of main line and enough more in branches, second, industrial and yard tracks to make the total mileage twenty thousand and sixty-five. In 1900 there were nineteen and sixty-five hundredths for every one hundred square miles of territory. The only states approaching Illinois in amount of mileage are Pennsylvania and Texas, Pennsylvania having slightly more miles per one hundred square miles and Texas but one-seventh as much per one hundred square miles. The number of employes of the railroads in Illinois in 1904 were one hundred and fifteen thousand four hundred and seven, to whom wages to the sum of seventy-two million seventy-eight thousand three hundred and ninety-seven dollars were paid. The number of passengers carried in Illinois was fifty-three million five hundred and forty-seven thousand two hundred and ninety, and the number of passengers carried one mile was one billion seven hundred and fifty-four million nine hundred and nine thousand, three hundred and twenty-six. The number of tons of freight carried was one hundred and twenty-three million five hundred and eighty-four thousand and seventy-eight, a total of twelve billion five hundred and seventy-eight million two hundred and seventeen thousand two hundred and eighty-six ton-miles. From the passenger service thirty-eight million eight hundred and forty-five thousand five hundred and twenty-two dollars was derived and from the freight service eighty-eight million four hundred and six thousand five hundred and forty-two dollars earnings were received, the total earnings and income for the railroads in Illinois for the year 1904 being one hundred and forty-one million four hundred and fifty-four thousand, four hundred and fifty-nine dollars. In 1890, fourteen years earlier, although there was nearly the same amount of main track in Illinois, only twenty-four million nine hundred and ten thousand eight hundred and twenty passengers were

carried, over seventeen million less than in 1901. The number of passengers carried one mile has increased nearly one hundred per cent in the short interval of ten years. The tons of freight had increased from forty-eight million in round numbers to eighty-eight million during the same period. The total income had increased from seventy-three million to one hundred and eight million dollars. These figures show that railroad building is pretty well advanced in Illinois, that new construction is proceeding slowly, as it should, but that greater use is being made of existing facilities.

It is in manufactures that the great expansion of the state's energies is now taking place. This accounts in some degree for the unusual increase in the urban population of the state. The high rank of Illinois as a manufacturing state as stated in the census of 1900 is due primarily to its transportation facilities. The communication with the east afforded by Lake Michigan has made Chicago the great distributing center for eastern products to all points in the middle west, while the Mississippi affords communication with the entire Mississippi valley. The importance of railroads has already been touched upon. As a result of these facilities and because of her great natural resources, Illinois is only surpassed by New York and Pennsylvania in the value of her manufactured products, according to the census of 1900, being one billion two hundred and fifty-nine million seven hundred and thirty thousand one hundred and sixty-eight dollars; an increase of over three hundred per cent since 1880. In the amount of capital invested in manufactures, Illinois ranks fourth among the states, with an investment of seven hundred and seventy-six million eight hundred and twenty-eight thousand five hundred and ninety-eight dollars in contrast with one hundred and forty million six hundred and fifty-two thousand and sixty-six dollars invested in manufactures in 1880. In the number of wage-earners dependent upon manufacturers, Illinois ranks fourth with a total of three hundred and ninety-five thousand one hundred and ten wage-earners, to whom one hundred and ninety-one million five hundred and ten thousand nine hundred and sixty-two dollars was paid in wages. The cost of materials used was seven hundred and thirty-nine million seven hundred and fifty-four thousand, four hundred and fourteen. The per capita production of manufactured goods for the state exceeded two hundred and fifty dollars in 1900.

In value of manufactured goods in specific industries, Illinois ranks first among the states in the manufacture of agricultural implements, bicycles and tricycles, steam railroad cars, glucose, distilled liquors, and watches, and in the products of its slaughtering and meat packing establishments. It ranks

second in the manufacture of factory furniture, men's clothing, soaps, and in printing and publishing, both in books and in job work. Forty-one and one-half per cent of all the agricultural implements of the country are manufactured in the ninety-four plants of Illinois, employing twenty-two thousand three hundred and ninety-four men. The importance of the slaughtering and meat packing industry is well known. There are sixty-four plants in the state, employing twenty-seven thousand eight hundred and sixty-one men and turning out products to the value of two hundred eighty-seven million nine hundred twenty-two thousand two hundred seventy-seven dollars. It is this industry in addition to many of lesser importance, which has made Chicago the second manufacturing city in the world.

In the production of iron and steel, Illinois ranks third, Pennsylvania and Ohio taking the lead. There are twenty-six plants in Illinois, having a capital of forty-three million three hundred fifty-six thousand two hundred thirty-nine dollars, employing sixteen thousand six hundred forty-two men, paying in wages nine million six hundred forty thousand seven hundred sixteen dollars, and turning out a product valued at sixty million, three hundred three thousand one hundred forty-four dollars. Besides these larger industries, there are numerous carriage and wagon factories, ship-building establishments, locomotive works, papermills, flourmills, canning factories, clothing factories, malt liquor establishments, which turned out products to the value of nineteen million seven hundred thirty-three thousand eight hundred twenty-one dollars in 1900, distilleries, manufactories for chemicals, finished leather, and numerous other products whose total annual value exceeds one million dollars.

Because of its significance, the printing and publishing industry deserves separate attention. In the state there are one thousand seven hundred fifty-five regular publications, having an aggregate circulation per issue of ten million four hundred twenty-nine thousand three hundred and sixty-eight, and an average circulation per issue of six thousand seven hundred thirty-seven.

From the above brief statistics and comparisons, it is seen that Illinois with fifty-six thousand square miles of territory and almost five million inhabitants is a state with truly imperial resources. Her immense coal fields widely distributed, producing thirty-seven million tons each year; her twenty-thousand miles of railroad, making a network of iron over the state; her rail and water communication with the east and the whole Mississippi valley affording unrivaled means of transportation; her more than twelve hundred banking institutions, possessing a grand total of one hundred and fifty million dollars capital and surplus; her twenty-seven million acres of improved land producing an annual

product valued at three hundred forty-five million dollars; her thirty-eight thousand manufacturing establishments, using materials valued at three-quarters of a billion dollars and turning out a product valued at one and one-quarter billion dollars; all these resources combine to give Illinois a proud position among the sisterhood of states.

FORD COUNTY.

Within a short time after the organization of Illinois territory, two counties St. Clair and Randolph, were formed. These two counties have been gradually subdivided until now there are one hundred and two counties within the boundaries of this state. Ford was the last county organized. To show whence we came as a county, the following letter is inserted:

Springfield, February 11, 1881.

Merton Dunlap, Esq., County Clerk, Ford County, Paxton, Ill.:

Dear Sir—Your communication of the 8th inst. at hand, and in response thereto, have to say that the following named counties comprised the state of Illinois in the year 1818, to-wit:

St. Clair, organized April 28, 1809.
Randolph, organized April 28, 1809.
Madison, organized September 14, 1812.
Gallatin, organized September 14, 1812.
Johnson, organized September 14, 1812.
Edwards, organized November 28, 1814.
White, organized December 9, 1815.
Jackson, organized January 10, 1816.
Pope, organized April 1, 1816.
Monroe, organized June 1, 1816.
Crawford, organized December 31, 1816.
Bond, organized January 4, 1817.
Union, organized January 2, 1818.
Washington, organized January 2, 1818.
Franklin, organized January 2, 1818.

Vermilion county was organized by an act of the general assembly, approved January 18, 1826, and embraced all that tract of country within the following bounds, to-wit: Beginning on the state line between Illinois and Indiana, at the northeast corner of Edgar county; thence west with the line dividing townships 16 and 17, to the southwest corner of township 17 north, range 10, east of third

principal meridian; thence north to the northwest corner of township 22 north; thence east to the state line; thence south with the state line to the place of beginning.

Vermilion county was formed out of territory attached to Edgar county for county purposes.

Edgar county was organized January 3, 1823, and at that date the territory now embraced in Vermilion county was attached to the county of Edgar.

Clark county was organized March 22, 1819, and at that date the territory now comprising the county of Vermilion formed part of Clark.

Crawford county was organized December 31, 1816, and at that date the territory now embraced in Vermilion county formed part of Crawford.

Edwards county was organized November 28, 1814, and at that date the territory now embraced in Vermilion county formed part of Edwards.

St. Clair county was organized April 28, 1809, and at that date the territory now embraced in Vermilion county formed part of St. Clair.

The territory attached to Vermilion county embraced all the country now occupied by Champaign, Iroquois and Ford counties; two tiers of townships on the east side of Livingston; two-thirds of the width of Grundy county south of the Kankakee, and nearly one and one-half congressional townships in the southwest corner of Will.

Iroquois county was formed February 26, 1833.

Champaign county was formed February 20, 1833.

Livingston county was formed February 27, 1837.

Grundy county was formed February 17, 1841.

Will county was formed January 12, 1836.

Ford county was formed February 17, 1859.

Very respectfully yours,

Henry D. Dement,

Secretary of State.

Although Ford was the last county of the state organized, she is not the least as many suppose.

In population Ford county numbered as follows: 1860, 1,979; 1870, 9,103; 1880, 1,505; 1900, 18,259. At the date of the last census there were twenty-six counties in this state containing a less number of inhabitants than Ford.

Forty-five counties have a smaller acreage than this county, as shown by the reports of the State Board of Equalization.

This county received its name in honor of Thomas Ford, the eighth governor

of Illinois (if the administration of W. L. D. Ewing, covering sixteen days, is to be counted as a term, otherwise Governor Ford's would be the seventh).

Thomas Ford was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, in the year 1800. His father was killed by the Indians when Thomas was but two years old. In 1804, his mother, with her large family of children, removed to St. Louis, Missouri, and two years later settled in Monroe county, Illinois.

This mother was a good manager, energetic, and determined that her sons should become good citizens. Governor Ford's boyhood was mostly spent in earning something for the family support, attending an occasional session of the county school, and one term at the Transylvania University. He then studied law with Daniel P. Cook, a congressman, and soon thereafter commanded a remunerative class of clients.

In 1829, he was appointed prosecuting attorney, and was reappointed in 1831.

Afterward he served two terms as circuit judge, one term as judge of the circuit court at Chicago, and one term as judge of the supreme court. In 1837 the financial panic then sweeping over the country visited Illinois with the most destructive effect. The state had become embarrassed as a consequence of loaning her credit to various projects of internal improvements, notably that of building railroads, and for the purpose of establishing a state bank and branches. The panic came, the internal improvement plans collapsed, the banks failed, the state bonds experienced a heavy decline, public confidence was lost, credit disappeared, and business of every kind was completely prostrated. This unfortunate condition of affairs continued for a period of several years. In 1842, Thomas Ford was chosen governor; the state debt then amounted to fourteen million dollars. It was during his able administration, and chiefly upon his recommendation, that a series of wise financial measures were brought forward in legislature. The fallen credit of the commonwealth was restored, confidence reestablished, and a fresh impetus given to trade and agricultural enterprise.

In his first message, he says: "We must convince our creditors and the world that the disgrace of repudiation is not countenanced among us, that we are honest and mean to pay as soon as we are able."

When Governor Ford delivered the reins of government to his successor, instead of a domestic debt for the ordinary expenses of the state amounting to almost one-third of a million dollars, we find it reduced to thirty-one thousand two hundred twelve dollars, with nine thousand two hundred sixty dollars in the treasury.

Governor Ford in his personality is described as "short in stature, slender, dark complexioned, heavy dark hair, deep set eyes, sharp nose and small mouth."

He says in his valedictory message: "Without having indulged in wasteful or extravagant habits of living, I retire from office poorer than I came in, and go to private life with the full determination not to seek again any place in the government."

He died at Peoria November 2, 1850, in very indigent circumstances.

FORD COUNTY ORGANIZED.

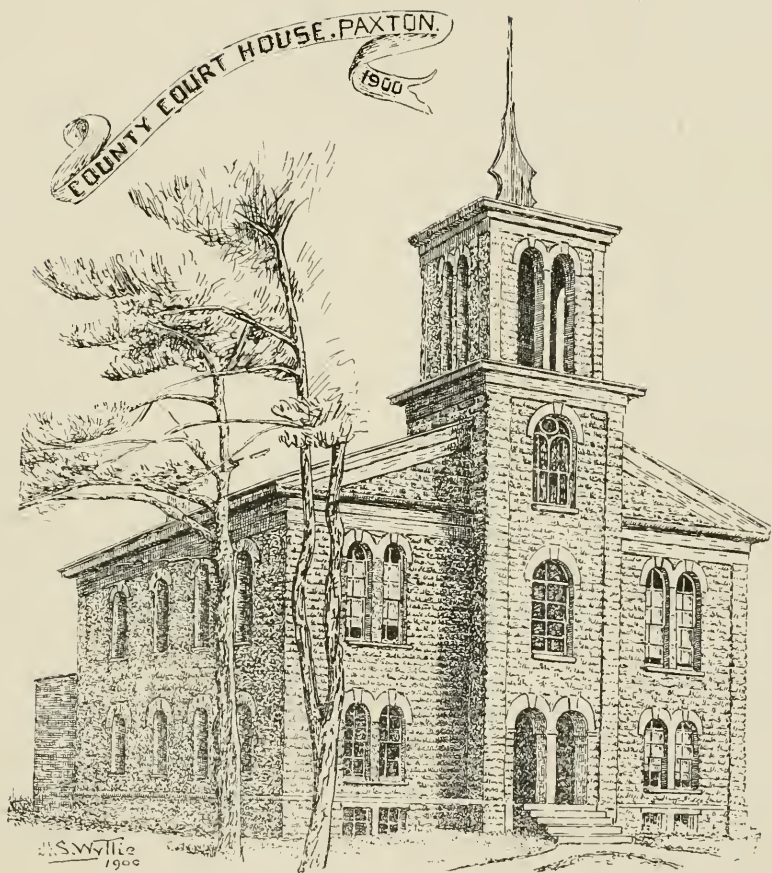
An act to Create the County of Ford and for Other Purposes:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the people of the state of Illinois represented in the general assembly, That all that portion of Vermilion county lying and being within the following boundaries and described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the northeast corner of Champaign county, running thence north of the south line of Iroquois county, thence west to the southwest corner of Iroquois county, thence north to the northwest corner of Iroquois county, thence west to Livingston county, thence south to the southeast corner of Livingston county, thence west to McLean county, thence south to the northwest corner of Champaign county, thence east to the place of beginning, be and the same is hereby created into a new county, to be called the county of Ford: Provided that a majority of all the legal voters of said county of Vermilion voting on the question shall vote for said new county, at an election to be held in manner hereinafter provided.

Sec 2. The qualified voters of said county of Vermilion may at a special election to be held in the several towns in said county on the first Tuesday in April next, vote for or against the creation of said new county of Ford by ballot upon which shall be written or printed or partly written and partly printed the words, "For the new county," or "Against the new county."

Sec. 3. The clerk of the county court of said county of Vermilion shall give notice of said election in the several election districts of said county in the same manner as notice of general or especial elections are given in counties which have not adopted township organization as nearly as may be, and the judges and clerks of election in the several election districts of said county shall keep a list of the voters polled at said election, and conduct the same in all respects and make return thereof to the clerk of the county court in the same manner as is provided by law for general elections. All vacancies in the board of election shall



THE OLD COURT HOUSE, PAXTON

be filled in the same manner as is provided by law in other cases. The clerk of said county court shall within seven days after said election, or as soon thereafter as said returns shall be received, proceed to canvass the returns of said election in the same manner as in general elections, and shall within five days thereafter make return of said vote to the secretary of state.

Sec. 4. If it shall appear that a majority of all the voters in said county of Vermilion voting upon the question, have voted in favor of the creation of said new county of Ford, then there shall be held a special election in the several towns and precincts within the limits of this act described for said new county of Ford, on the first Monday in June next for county officers. In case of fractional towns or precincts which have become detached by the boundaries of the said new county the voters thereof may at the first election for county officers vote within such town or precinct within said new county as they deem most convenient. The said election to be conducted by the judges of election then in office under appointment or election in said county of Vermilion, and to be held at the place of holding the last general election. In case of vacancy in the board of election, or non-attendance, said vacancy or place of any absentee shall be filled in the same manner as is provided by law in other cases of election. At which election the qualified voters of said county of Ford shall elect all county officers for said county except such as hereinafter are excepted who shall be commissioned and qualified in the same manner as such officers are in other counties in this state, and who shall continue in office until the next general election for such officers and until their successors are elected and qualified, and who shall have all the jurisdiction and perform all the duties which are or may be conferred upon such officers in other counties of this state.

Sec. 5. All the justices of the peace, constables or other town or precinct officers who have been heretofore elected and qualified in said county of Vermilion whose term of office shall not have expired at the time of said election and whose residence shall be embraced within the limits of said county of Ford shall continue in office until their term of office shall expire, and until their successors shall be elected and qualified.

Sec. 6. For the purpose of fixing the permanent location of the county seat of said county of Ford, the voters of said county shall at said election for county officers vote for some place to be designated upon their ballots for a county seat, upon which ballots shall be written or printed, or partly written and partly printed, "For county seat———" after which words shall be written or printed the name of the place intended for the county seat. The place receiving a majority of all the votes cast upon the question shall be the

county seat of said county of Ford, but if no one place shall receive a majority of all the votes cast upon the question, then it shall be the duty of the county court of said county to call another election within thirty days thereafter at the several places of holding elections in said county, at which election the voters of said county shall proceed to vote as before, but shall choose from the two places having the greater number of votes at the former election, and the place having the majority of all the votes cast at the second election shall be the permanent county seat of said county of Ford.

Sec. 7. The notice of said election for county officers shall be given by the clerk of the county court of Vermilion county in the same manner as in cases of general elections; said notice shall specify that a vote will be taken upon the location of the county seat. The returns of said election for county officers shall be made to the clerk of said court, who shall cause the same to be opened and canvassed and returns thereof made in the same manner as is provided by law in other cases.

Sec. 8. All suits and prosecutions that have been or may be commenced in said county of Vermilion, including all the proceedings in the county court, in matters of probate before the organization of said county of Ford, shall not be affected by this act or the operation thereof, but all such suits, prosecutions and proceedings shall be prosecuted, and conducted to their final termination in said county of Vermilion, and the officers of said county are hereby authorized to execute all writs that may be necessary for the completion of said suits, prosecutions or proceedings within the limits of said county of Ford, and all judgments that may have heretofore been obtained, or that may hereafter be obtained in said county of Vermilion before the organization of said county of Ford, shall have the same lien upon all property within the limits of said county of Ford as if the said territory had not been created into a separate county.

Sec. 9. As soon as the county officers shall have been elected and qualified as aforesaid, the said county of Ford shall be considered organized. The oath of office may be administered to the several county officers by any person within the limits of the new county authorized by law to administer oaths, and as soon as said county is organized, the clerk of the circuit court shall give notice thereof to the judge of the circuit in which said county may be embraced, who shall thereupon hold court at such place in said county of Ford as the county court thereof shall designate until the county seat of said county shall become permanently located as heretofore provided, which court shall be holden at such times as the judge of said circuit shall appoint until otherwise provided

by law, the said county of Ford shall be taken and considered as a part of the eighth judicial circuit.

Sec. 10. The school funds, if any, in the hands of the school commissioners of Vermilion county belonging to the several towns or parts of towns embraced within the limits of said county of Ford, shall be by said commissioners paid over to the school commissioner of said county of Ford, so soon as he shall have given bond and been qualified on demand made.

Sec. 11. The county court of said county of Ford shall at some term of said court, by an order to be entered upon their records, appoint some competent person a commissioner for the purpose hereinafter expressed, who shall take an oath of office before some officer of said county authorized by law to administer oaths, said court shall at the same time provide a sufficient number of well bound blank books, and deliver the same to said commissioner, who shall receipt the same to the clerk of said court, and as soon as the same shall be delivered to said commissioners he shall record in each book a copy of the order of appointment and oath of office, and shall thereupon proceed to transcribe into such books all deeds, mortgages and title papers of every description, with the acknowledgments and certificates in relation thereto, of lands lying in the said county of Ford, which have been recorded, or may hereafter be recorded, before the organization of said county, in the recorder's office of said county of Vermilion. Such commissioner shall be allowed by said county court such sums as his services shall be worth, to be paid out of the county treasury. Said commissioner shall note at the end of each paper he shall transcribe, the book and page from which the same was transcribed, and shall make a correct double index of said records, and on the completion of his duties, said commissioner shall return said books to the clerk of the circuit court of the said county of Ford, whereupon they shall be taken and considered to all intents and purposes as books of records of deeds, mortgages and title papers for said county of Ford, and copies of said records certified by the officer having custody of the same shall be evidenced in all courts and places in the same manner that deeds and title papers regularly recorded in the recorder's office, an evidence and with the same effect.

Sec. 12. Of the swamp lands lying within the present limits of Vermilion county and of the proceeds of sales of said lands heretofore made, and which may hereafter be made before the organization of said county of Ford, after deducting all expenses paid by, and for which the said county of Vermilion may be liable. The said county of Ford shall receive and be entitled to a share in proportion to the number of congressional townships and parts of

townships lying within the boundaries of said county of Ford, and the share of said county of Vermilion to said lands and proceeds of sales thereof as aforesaid, shall be in proportion to the number of congressional townships and parts of townships remaining within the limits of said county of Vermilion after said county of Ford shall have been organized.

Sec. 13. The secretary of state shall forthwith furnish to the clerk of the county court of Vermilion county a certified copy of this act.

Sec. 14. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

William R. Morrison,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

John Wood,

Speaker of the Senate.

Approved February 17, 1859,

William H. Bissell.

United States of America, $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \\ \text{ss.} \end{array} \right.$
State of Illinois.

Office of Secretary.

I, Henry D. Dement, secretary of state of the state of Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an act to create the county of Ford and for other purposes now on file in this office.

In witness whereof, I hereto set my hand and affix the great seal of state (L. S.) at the city of Springfield, this 11th day of June, A. D. 1883.

Henry D. Dement,

Secretary of State.

Agreeably to the fourth section of the foregoing act, an election was held on the first Monday in June, 1859, in the new county of Ford, for county officers. At the same time, in accordance with the sixth section, the location of the county seat was determined by the selection of Paxton, the name of the town at that time being Prospect City.

The following is a list of the county officers, from the first election, until the present time:

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

An act for establishing county courts, approved February 12, 1849, and in force at the time of the organization of Ford county, provided for the elec-

tion of a county judge. Also, that at the same time, "there shall be elected two justices of the peace, whose jurisdiction shall be coextensive with the county, and who shall hold their offices for four years." They were to give bond, and have the same powers as township justices and "moreover, sit with the county judge, as members of the court for the transaction of the county business, and none other, and while sitting as members of the court shall have an equal vote with the county judge on all questions and matters legally and properly before said court. The said judge with said two justices shall in all cases whatever, have, exercise and possess all the power, jurisdiction and authority heretofore conferred on the county commissioners court." To distinguish these county justices from those of the several townships they were termed associate justices. In probate and certain other matters, the county judge acted alone.

It is our purpose to give a list of the members of this court followed by a list of the township supervisors, dating from the adoption of township organization by this county. These supervisors, when met for county business, compose what is termed the board of supervisors, which takes the place of the county court, consisting of the county judge and associate justices.

The records of Vermilion county show that that portion which now comprises Ford county was organized as a township February 16, 1856, from Middlefork township and named Prairie City township. Its name was changed to "Patton" September 15, 1857, on account of there being another Prairie City township in the state.

Drummer Grove township was organized from Patton, September 14, 1858, and included the present townships of Drummer, Dix, Peach Orchard and Sulivant. Stockton township was organized from Patton, March 15, 1859, and included the present townships of Lyman, Brenton, Pella, Mona and Rogers. Therefore, at the time of the organization of Ford county, it consisted of three townships, viz.: Patton, Drummer Grove and Stockton, the former at that time including the present townships of Patton, Button and Wall. The first court after the election in June, 1859, for the transaction of county business, was held by David Patton, county judge; William Swinford and Andrew J. Bartlett, associate justices.

April 3, 1860, Edmund F. Havens was elected associate justice in place of Andrew J. Bartlett, removed from the county.

November 6, 1860, township organization was adopted by the following vote: For, two hundred and sixty-five; against, seventy-six.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

1861—James P. Button, Patton township; Andrew Jordan, Drummer's Grove; and George B. Winter, Stockton.

1862—James P. Button, Patton; Andrew Jordan, Drummer's Grove; Mark Parsons, Stockton.

1863—William Noel, Patton; William Snider, Drummer's Grove; Mark Parsons, Stockton.

September 14, 1863—The township of Grant was organized which comprised the present townships of Mona and Rogers.

March 7, 1864—The name of Grant was changed to Rogers, and Stockton at this time, comprising the present townships of Lyman, Brenton and Pella, was changed to Brenton.

1864—William Noel, Patton; William Snider, Drummer's Grove; Mark Parsons, Brenton; J. W. Rogers, Rogers.

September 12, 1864—Name of Drummer's Grove township changed to Dix.

December 13, 1864—E. M. Blackford took his seat as supervisor in place of William Snider, elected sheriff.

At this meeting the present township of Button was organized.

1865—James P. Button, Button; William Noel, Patton; J. W. Rogers, Rogers; George B. Winter, Brenton; J. E. Davis, Dix.

August 31, 1865—John J. Simons appointed county clerk, pro tempore, vice Nathan Simons, deceased.

December 4, 1865—William Walker took his seat as supervisor in place of James P. Button, elected county treasurer.

1867—J. P. Middlecoff, Patton; J. H. Kendall, Dix; J. H. Flagg, Button; D. B. Case, Rogers; S. E. Burt, Brenton.

June 12, 1867—The present township of Wall was organized

September 9, 1867—The present township of Lyman was organized.

September 10, 1867—The present township of Sullivant was organized.

1867—W. H. H. Wood, Patton; J. H. Flagg, Button; M. L. Sullivant, Sullivant; Samuel Woodward, Lyman; J. E. Davis, Dix; Edward Clayton, Rogers; William Liggett, Wall; L. T. Bishop, Brenton.

September 15, 1868—The present township of Peach Orchard was organized.

March 1, 1869—The present township of Drummer was organized and called Drummer's Grove.

1869—M. L. Sullivant, Sullivant; J. H. Flagg, Button; L. T. Bishop, Brenton; D. B. Case, Rogers; Caleb McKeever, Drummer's Grove; R. S. Chamberlin, Dix; A. M. Haling, Lyman; John Kelley, Patton; William Noel, Wall; James Dixon, Peach Orchard.

March 2, 1870—The present township of Pella was organized and called Clyde.

Also present township of Mona organized and called Delhi.

The name of Drummer's Grove township was changed to that of Drummer.

1870—David Keighin, Delhi; J. D. Kilgore, Wall; C. E. Henderson, Patton; B. H. McClure, Drummer; R. S. Chamberlin, Dix; P. S. Gose, Lyman; L. T. Bishop, Brenton; J. H. Flagg, Button; D. B. Case, Rogers; W. B. Holmes, Peach Orchard; J. S. Ruff, Clyde; M. L. Sullivant, Sullivant.

June 16, 1870—Name of Delhi township changed to Mona, and name of Clyde township changed to Pella.

1871—W. L. Conrow, Brenton; P. S. Gose, Lyman; D. B. Case, Rogers; David Keighin, Mona; R. S. Chamberlin, Dix; B. H. McClure, Drummer; William Noel, Wall; C. E. Henderson, Patton; J. H. Flagg, Button; M. L. Sullivant, Sullivant; J. S. Ruff, Pella; T. D. Thompson, Peach Orchard.

December 12, 1871—M. M. Pulver took his seat as supervisor in place of W. L. Conrow, appointed county superintendent of schools.

1872—J. P. Middlecoff, Patton; William Walker, Button; James Sheldon, Pella; David Keighin, Mona; Thomas Winstanley, Rogers; M. L. Sullivant, Sullivant; M. M. Pulver, Brenton; O. D. Sackett, Lyman; Levi Miller, Wall; R. S. Chamberlin, Dix; J. M. Sudduth, Drummer; Thomas F. Kingsley, Peach Orchard.

March 11, 1873—Albert Keith took his seat as supervisor in place of J. P. Middlecoff, elected to the general assembly.

1873—O. D. Sackett, Chairman, Lyman; Samuel Clayton, Rogers; David Keighin, Mona; Robert Wells, Pella; Hugh P. Beach, Brenton; Thomas F. Kingsley, Peach Orchard; John H. Collier, Drummer; Edward Babcock, Wall; Benjamin Ferris, Patton; R. N. Gorsuch, Button; M. L. Sullivant, Sullivant; J. I. Robinson, Dix.

December 16, 1873—W. T. Morrison took his seat in place of R. N. Gorsuch, elected county superintendent of schools. N. M. Ward took his seat in place of H. P. Beach, elected county judge.

1874—J. I. Robinson, chairman, Dix; Samuel Clayton, Rogers; Monroe Bute, Mona; L. T. Bishop, Brenton; H. B. Ferguson, Lyman; Thomas F. Kingsley, Peach Orchard; M. L. Sullivant, Sullivant; William Noel, Wall;

John H. Collier, Drummer; John M. Hall, Patton; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button; James Sheldon, Pella.

John Keesey was elected assistant supervisor for Patton township, it being the opinion that this township had the population entitling it to two supervisors.

March 9, 1875—J. M. Thompson took his seat, in place of T. F. Kingsley, resigned.

1875—John H. Collier, Chairman, Drummer; John Richardson, Dix; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button; William Kenward, Wall; J. A. Montelius, Brenton; James Sheldon, Pella; A. V. Burcham, Lyman; J. M. Hall and J. T. Miller, Patton; Samuel Clayton, Rogers; Monroe Bute, Mona; W. B. Holmes, Peach Orchard; M. L. Sullivant, Sullivant.

1876—John H. Collier, chairman, Drummer; Joseph Burger, Brenton; Alonzo Burr, Sullivant; John M. Hall and John W. Swanson, Patton; John S. Hewins, Button; W. B. Holmes, Peach Orchard; William Kenward, Wall; James Ogilvie, Rogers; John Richardson, Dix; James Sheldon, Pella; Joseph Hurst, Lyman; Monroe Bute, Mona.

March 13, 1877—Samuel J. LeFevre took his seat as supervisor, in place of J. H. Collier, elected to the general assembly. James Sheldon was elected chairman.

1877—J. P. Middlecoff, chairman, Patton; Joseph Burger, Brenton; C. M. Blowers, Pella; W. B. Flora, Lyman; W. B. Holmes, Peach Orchard; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button; David Keighin, Mona; J. F. Kenney, Wall; S. J. LeFevre, Drummer; James Ogilvie, Rogers; John Richardson, Dix; M. L. Sullivant, Sullivant; J. W. Swanson, Patton.

1878—J. P. Middlecoff, chairman, Patton; Joseph Burger, Brenton; C. M. Blowers, Pella; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; W. B. Flora, Lyman; J. A. Froyd, Patton; John S. Hunt, Peach Orchard; David Keighin, Mona; J. F. Kenney, Wall; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button; S. J. LeFevre, Drummer; James Ogilvie, Rogers; S. W. Wade, Dix.

1879—S. J. LeFevre, chairman, Drummer; Edward Babcock, Wall; Joseph Burger, Brenton; C. M. Blowers, Pella; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; J. Y. Campbell, Patton; J. A. Froyd, Patton; Joseph Hurst, Lyman; John S. Hunt, Peach Orchard; David Keighin, Mona; James Ogilvie, Rogers; W. T. Patton, Button; John Richardson, Dix.

July 14, 1879—The board decided that under the census of 1870, as provided by law, Patton township was entitled to but one supervisor. Accordingly Mr. Froyd withdrew.



SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE AND JAIL, PAXTON

1880—S. J. LeFevre, chairman, Drummer; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; J. Y. Campbell, Patton; Joseph Hurst, Lyman; J. F. Kenney, Wall; Hugh McCormick, Button; J. Mathis, Peach Orchard; J. S. McElhiney, Brenton; James Ogilvie, Rogers; John Richardson, Dix; John A. Scott, Mona; T. J. Sowers, Pella.

1881—W. A. Bicket, chairman, Sullivant; C. M. Blowers, Pella; Joseph Burger, Brenton; Abraham Croft, Patton; Joseph Hurst, Lyman; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; H. McCormick, Button; John Richardson, Dix; John A. Scott, Mona; J. H. Snelling, Wall; W. B. Sargeant, Rogers; C. H. Yeomans, Drummer.

1882—Joseph Burger, chairman, Brenton; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; A. C. Bullington, Dix; L. Burnus, Lyman; Abraham Croft, Patton; George Eastwood, Pella; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; William Kenney, Wall; Hugh McCormick, Button; W. B. Sargeant, Rogers; John A. Scott, Mona; Charles H. Yeomans, Drummer.

March, 1883—Thomas Correll took his seat, in place of George Eastwood, removed from the county.

1883—Charles H. Yeomans, chairman, Drummer; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; A. C. Bullington, Dix; Joseph Burger, Brenton; L. Burnus, Lyman; N. B. Day, Patton; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; William Kenney, Wall; Thomas McDermott, Pella; Hugh McCormick, Button; W. B. Sargeant, Rogers; John A. Scott, Mona.

1884—W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; A. C. Bullington, Dix; Joseph Burger, Brenton; N. B. Day, Patton; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; James C. Kirkpatrick, Button; William Kenney, Wall; Byron Lisk, Lyman; Thomas McDermott, Pella; W. B. Sargeant, Rogers; John A. Scott, Mona; W. H. Simms, Drummer.

1885—W. B. Sargeant, Rogers; P. J. Gerhart, Mona; Thomas McDermott, Pella; Joseph Burger, Brenton; W. B. Flora, Lyman; William Kenney, Wall; W. S. Larkin, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; W. H. Simms, Drummer; J. H. Leonard, Dix; N. B. Day, Patton; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button.

1886—W. B. Sargeant, Rogers; Henry Benson, Mona; Thomas McDermott, Pella; Joseph Burger, Brenton; Byron Lisk, Lyman; William Kenney, Wall; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; F. C. McDowell, Drummer; S. W. Wade, Dix; N. B. Day, Patton; W. T. Morrison, Button.

1887—W. B. Sargeant, Rogers; Henry Benson, Mona; Thomas McDermott, Pella; Joseph Burger, Brenton; Byron Lisk, Lyman; William Kenney, Wall; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; F. C. McDowell, Drummer; A. T. Gullett, Dix; N. B. Day, Patton; W. T. Morrison, Button.

1888—W. B. Sargeant, Rogers; Henry Benson, Mona; Thomas McDermott, Pella; Joseph Burger, Brenton; E. O. Newman, Lyman; William Kenney, Wall; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; F. C. McDowell, Drummer; M. W. Peterson, Dix; J. W. Ramsay, Patton; W. T. Morrison, Button.

1889—P. Whalen, Rogers; John A. Scott, Mona; Thomas McDermott, Pella; Joseph Burger, Brenton; W. B. Flora, Lyman; J. F. Kenney, Wall; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; John F. White, Drummer; J. H. Leonard, Dix; J. W. Ramsay, Patton; W. T. Morrison, Button.

1890—Samuel Clayton, Rogers; John A. Scott, Mona; Thomas McDermott, Pella; Joseph Burger, Brenton; W. B. Flora, Lyman; J. F. Kenney, Wall; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; Charles S. Crary, Drummer; J. E. Hagin, Dix; J. W. Ramsay, Patton; W. T. Morrison, Button.

1891—W. F. Hoyt, Rogers; John A. Scott, Mona; Thomas McDermott, Pella; Joseph Burger, Brenton; W. B. Flora, Lyman; J. F. Kenney, Wall; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; Charles S. Crary, Drummer; J. E. Hagin, Dix; J. W. Ramsay, Patton; W. T. Morrison, Button.

1892—Samuel Clayton, Rogers; Winfried Scott, Mona; Thomas McDermott, Pella; Joseph Burger, Brenton; W. B. Flora, Lyman; J. F. Kenney, Wall; John Iehl, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; Tim Ross, Drummer; P. J. Yeager, Dix; J. W. Ramsay, Patton; W. T. Morrison, Button.

1893—Samuel Clayton, Rogers; Winfried Scott, Mona, Thomas McDermott, Pella; John Rohrback, Brenton; W. B. Flora, Lyman; J. F. Kenney, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; Tim Ross, Drummer; P. J. Yeager, Dix; A. J. Laurence, Patton; W. T. Morrison, Button.

1894—Samuel Clayton, Rogers; Winfried Scott, Mona; T. J. Sowers, Pella; John Rohrback, Brenton; W. B. Flora, Lyman; James H. Andrews, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; Tim Ross, Drummer; Thomas Crowe, Dix; A. J. Laurence, Patton; W. T. Morrison, Button.

1895—Samuel Clayton, Rogers; Winfried Scott; Mona; T. J. Sowers, Pella; John A. Montelius, Brenton; J. P. Smith, Lyman; James H. Andrews, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; W. A. Bicket, Sullivant; Tim Ross, Drummer; Thomas Crowe, Dix; A. L. Laurence, Patton; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button.

1896—Samuel Clayton, Rogers; Winfried Scott, Mona; T. J. Sowers, Pella; John A. Montelius, Brenton; J. P. Smith, Lyman; James H. Andrews, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; Swen Anderson, Sullivant; Tim Ross, Drum-

mer; Thomas Crowe, Dix; A. L. Laurence, Patton; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button.

1897—William Hoyt, Rogers; Winfried Scott, Mona; T. J. Sowers, Pella; John A. Montelius, Brenton; J. P. Smith, Lyman; James H. Andrews, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; Swen Anderson, Sullivant; Tim Ross, Drummer; Thomas Crowe, Dix; A. L. Laurence, Patton; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button.

1898—James Ogilvie, Rogers; Winfried Scott, Mona; T. D. Hevener, Pella; John A. Montelius, Brenton; J. P. Smith, Lyman; James H. Andrews, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; Swen Anderson, Sullivant; Tim Ross, Drummer, Thomas Crowe, Dix; A. J. Laurence, Patton; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button.

1899—James Ogilvie, Rogers; Winfried Scott, Mona; T. D. Hevener, Pella; John C. Culbertson, Brenton; J. P. Smith, Lyman; William E. Kenney, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; O. A. Lundelof, Sullivant; Tim Ross, Drummer, Thomas Crowe, Dix; A. J. Laurence, Patton; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button.

1900—James Ogilvie, Rogers; Winfried Scott, Mona; T. D. Hevener, Pella; John C. Culbertson, Brenton; J. P. Smith, Lyman; J. W. Gilkerson, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; O. A. Lundelof, Sullivant; Tim Ross, Drummer; Thomas Crowe, Dix; A. J. Laurence, Patton; J. C. Kirkpatrick, Button.

1901—James Ogilvie, Rogers; Winfried Scott, Mona; T. D. Hevener, Pella; John C. Culbertson, Brenton; J. P. Smith, Lyman; J. W. Gilkerson, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; O. A. Lundelof, Sullivant; Tim Ross, Drummer, Thomas Crowe, Dix; A. J. Laurence, Patton; R. C. Parks, Button.

1902—Henry Raab, Rogers; Thomas Kewly, Mona; J. P. Glass, Pella; John C. Culbertson, Brenton; J. P. Smith, Lyman; J. W. Gilkerson, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; O. A. Lundelof, Sullivant; Horace C. McClure, Drummer; W. A. Cameron, Dix; A. J. Laurence, Patton, R. C. Parks, Button.

1903—Henry Raab, Rogers; Thomas Kewly, Mona; J. P. Glass, Pella; John C. Culbertson, Brenton; J. P. Smith, Lyman; J. W. Gilkerson, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; George Stockdale, Sullivant; Horace McClure, Drummer; W. A. Cameron, Dix; Albert Froyd, Patton; R. C. Parks, Button.

1904—Henry Raab, Rogers; Thomas Kewly, Mona; J. P. Glass, Pella; John C. Culbertson, Brenton; J. P. Smith, Lyman; J. W. Gilkerson, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; George Stockdale, Sullivant; Horace McClure, Drummer; W. A. Cameron, Dix; Albert Froyd, Patton; R. C. Parks, Button.

1905—Henry Raab, Rogers; Thomas Kewly, Mona; J. P. Glass, Pella; John C. Culbertson, Brenton; R. B. Chambers, Lyman; J. W. Gilkerson, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; George Stockdale, Sullivant; Horace McClure,

Drummer; W. A. Cameron, Dix; Albert Froyd, Patton, R. C. Parks, Button.

1906—Henry Raab, Rogers; Thomas Kewly, Mona; J. P. Glass, Pella; John C. Culbertson, Brenton; R. B. Chambers, Lyman; J. W. Gilkerson, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; George Stockdale, Sullivant; W. E. Proctor, Drummer; W. A. Cameron, Dix; Albert Froyd, Patton; R. C. Parks, Button.

1907—Henry Raab, Rogers; Thomas Kewly, Mona; J. P. Glass, Pella; John C. Culbertson, Brenton; R. B. Chambers, Lyman; J. W. Gilkerson, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; George Stockdale, Sullivant; W. E. Proctor, Drummer; W. A. Cameron, Dix; Albert Froyd, Patton; Sherman Frederick, Button.

1908—W. H. Gilborne, Rogers; Thomas Kewly, Mona; W. T. Atwood, Pella; John C. Culbertson, Brenton; R. B. Chambers, Lyman; J. W. Gilkerson, Wall; Owen K. Boshen, Peach Orchard; George Stockdale, Sullivant; W. E. Proctor, Drummer; W. A. Cameron, Dix; Albert Froyd, Patton; Sherman Frederick, Button.

MONUMENTS TO THE SOLDIER DEAD.

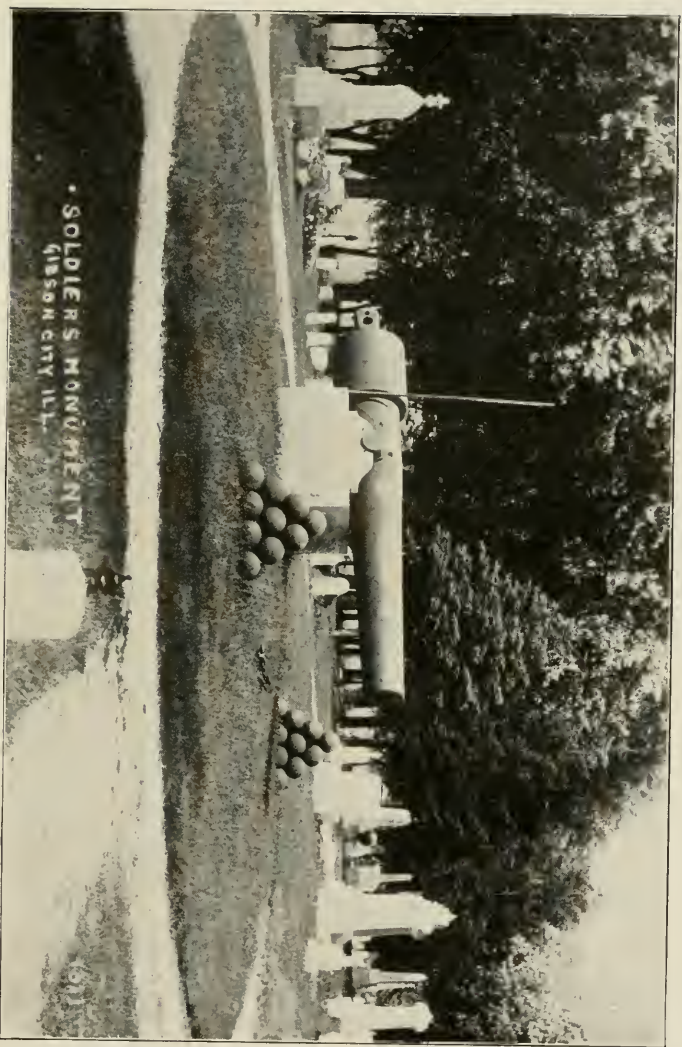
At Gibson City, in "the soldiers' circle" of the cemetery, a one hundred-pound Parrot gun and an eight-inch mortar from Fortress Monroe are mounted beside a pyramid of eight-inch shells and dedicated May 30, 1898, to the soldiers of the Civil war. The work was carried out under the auspices of the local G. A. R. post at a cost of about one hundred and twenty dollars.

At Paxton, in Glen cemetery, erected under the auspices of the G. A. R. and W. R. C., a marble shaft, twenty-two feet high, surmounted by the figure of a private soldier, was dedicated May 30, 1901, "To the memory of the unknown soldiers" of the Civil war. Cost about fifteen hundred dollars.

At Piper City, in the public park, there is a cannon and pyramid of balls dedicated by the local G. A. R. post to the memory of the soldiers of the Civil war.

BATTLES FOR COUNTY SEAT.

Even at the start, Paxton had her troubles in the way of obtaining for herself the capital of the county. Her success came from her environments and the fighting qualities of her citizens. The question of the county seat



SOLDIERS MONUMENT, GIBSON CITY.

slumbered, merely, for years. Gibson City was ambitious and ever cast a covetous eye toward the capital. The culmination of her aspirations came in 1905, when certain of her citizens made an offer of money (in notes) and a new courthouse, as an inducement for the removal of the county seat to that place. The courthouse was to be built on "lot 8," not in the corporation. A vote was taken, after a warm and bitter contest, November 14, and Paxton won. The vote is given, in tabulated forms, below:

	Paxton	Block 8	Total
Rogers	115	26	141
Mona	123	19	142
Pella	100	17	117
Brenton	246	74	320
Lyman	165	116	281
Wall	145	21	166
Peach Orchard	32	217	249
Sullivant	64	184	248
Drummer	12	804	816
Dix	106	218	324
Button	201	4	205
Patton No. 1.....	487		487
Patton No. 2	478	6	474
Patton No. 3	123	2	123
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	2,397	1,708	4,105

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

So far as the principal county offices are concerned, the general arrangement and method of handling the public business is very much the same as in all of the states; but the offices are called by different names, and in minor details—such as transferring from one office to another certain minor lines of work—there are a number of points in which the method of county government in the various states differs. The names of the principal county offices are adopted, which are most common in the northern states, as in the southern and New England states there are scarcely any two states in which the names or titles of all the county offices are identical.

AUDITING OFFICE AND CLERK OF THE COUNTY BOARD.

Generally the principal auditing officer of the county is known as the "county auditor" or "county clerk." In Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin and many other states the office is called "county clerk." In Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio and others it is termed "county auditor." In a few of the states under certain conditions this office is merged with some other county office. A notable example of this is in the state of Michigan, where they have one official, under the simple title of "clerk," who looks after about all the work which in most of the states devolves upon both the county clerk and also clerk of court. In all of the states a bond in a moderate sum is required of the county clerk or auditor, and he is paid a salary of from one thousand five hundred dollars to three thousand five hundred dollars per year, besides in some states being allowed certain fees, unless it is in a very large and heavily populated county, where the salary paid is of necessity much higher than this amount. No county treasurer or member of the county board is eligible to this office. In general terms it may be stated as a rule the auditor acts as a clerk or secretary of the official county board, although in a few of the states the court clerk is required to look after this matter. The clerk of the county board keeps an accurate record of the board's proceedings and carefully preserves all documents, records, books, maps and papers which may be brought before the board, or which the law provides shall be deposited in his office. In the auditing office an accurate account is kept with the county treasurer. Generally they file the duplicates of the receipts given by the county treasurer, charging him with all money paid into the treasury and giving credit for all warrants paid. The general plan of paying claims against a county is as follows: If the claim is one in which the amount due is fixed by law, or is authorized to be fixed by some other person or tribunal, the auditor issues a warrant or order which will be paid by the treasurer, the certificate upon which it is allowed being duly filed. In all other cases the claim must be allowed by the county board, and the chairman or presiding officer issues a warrant or order which is attested by the clerk. A complete record of all these county warrants or orders is kept, and the accounts of the county treasurer must balance therewith. The above in general terms outline the most important branch of work which the county clerk or county auditor looks after in most of the states, but in all the states the law requires him to look after a number of other matters, although in these there is no uniformity between the various states, and no general description of these minor or additional duties could be given that would apply to all the states.

COUNTY TREASURER.

This is an office which exists in all the states, and it is one of the most important of the various offices necessary in carrying on the business of the county. It is an elective office in all of the states, and the term of office is usually either two or four years, but a very common provision in the various states is that after serving for one term as county treasurer a party shall be ineligible to the office until the intervention of at least one term after the expiration of the term for which he was elected. This provision, however, does not exist in all of the states, as in some of them the county treasurer is eligible for re-election for any number of terms.

The general duties of the county treasurers throughout the various states is very similar. The county treasurer is the principal custodian of the funds belonging to the county. It is his duty to receive and safely keep the revenues and other public moneys of the county, and all funds authorized to be paid to him, and disburse the same pursuant to law. He is required to keep proper books of account, in which he must keep a regular, just and true account of all moneys, revenues and funds received by him, stating particularly the time, when, of whom and on what fund or account each particular sum was received; and also of all moneys, revenues and funds paid out by him according to law, stating particularly the time, when, to whom and on what fund payment is made from. The books of the county treasurer must always be subject to inspection of the county board, which, at stated intervals, examines his books and makes settlements with him. In some of the states the provisions of the law relating to county treasurer are very strict; some of them provide for a county board of auditors, who are expected, several times a year, to examine the funds, accounts and vouchers of the treasury without previous notice to the treasurer, and in some it is provided that this board, or the county board, shall designate a bank (or banks) in which the treasurer is required to keep the county funds deposited—the banks being required to pay interest on daily or monthly balances and give bond to indemnify the county against loss. As a general rule the county treasurer is only authorized to pay out county funds on warrants or orders issued by the chairman of the county board and attested by the clerk, or in certain cases on warrants or orders of the county auditing office. A complete record of these warrants or orders is kept, and the treasurer's accounts must balance therewith. In most of the states the law is very explicit in directing how the books and accounts of the county treasurer shall be kept.

COUNTY RECORDER OR REGISTER OF DEEDS.

In a few of the states the office of county recorder or register of deeds is merged with some other county office in counties where the population falls below a certain amount. A notable example of this is found in both the states of Illinois and Missouri (and there are others) where it is merged with the office of circuit clerk in many counties. The title of the joint office is "circuit clerk and recorder," and the duties of both offices are looked after by one official.

The duties of the county recorder or register of deeds are very similar in the various states, although in some of the eastern and southern states the office is called by other names. The usual name, however, is county recorder or register of deeds. In Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio and many other states, it is called "county recorder." In Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and many more it is called "register of deeds." In all of the states this office is the repository wherein are kept all records relating to deeds, mortgages, transfers and contracts affecting lands within the county. It is the duty of the recorder or register, as soon as practical after the filing of any instrument in writing in his office entitled to be recorded, to record the same at length, in the order of the time of its reception, in books provided by the county for that purpose; and it is his duty to endorse on all instruments a certificate of the time when the same was filed. All of the states have some of the following provisions concerning the duties of the recorder, but these provisions are not common to all of the states, viz: The register or recorder is not allowed to record an instrument of any kind unless it is duly executed according to law; he is not obliged to record any instrument unless his fees are paid in advance; as a rule, it is unlawful for him to record any map, plat or subdivision of land situated within any incorporated city, town or village until it is approved by the proper officers of the same. In many states he is forbidden to enter a deed on the records until it has been endorsed "taxes paid" by the proper official; he is required to exhibit, free of charge, all records, and allow copies to be made; he is authorized to administer oaths and take acknowledgments.

CIRCUIT OR DISTRICT CLERK, OR CLERK OF COURT.

In nearly all of the states, each county elects a "clerk of court or courts," sometimes also known as circuit clerk or district clerk, indicating the court

with which the office is connected. In some of the states, as has already been stated, the office of clerk of court is merged with some other county office. This is the case in Illinois and Missouri, where in many counties it is connected with the office of county recorder. In Michigan, one official under the name of "clerk" handles the business which usually is given to the clerk of court and county clerk or auditor. In Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois and other states the name used is "circuit clerk"; in Kansas, Minnesota, North Dakota and many others the office is called "clerk of district court"; while in many of the states, including Indiana, Ohio, Iowa and others, it is simply called "clerk" or "clerk of the court or courts."

The chief duty of this official is to act as clerk of the district or circuit court, and sometimes other courts of inferior jurisdiction. It is the clerk's duty to keep the seals and attend the sessions of their respective courts, preserve all the files and papers thereof, make, keep and preserve complete records of all the proceedings and determinations thereof, and carry out such other duties as may be required by the rules and orders of their respective courts. They must enter of record all judgments, decrees and orders of the court as soon as possible after they are rendered; keep all indictments on file as a public record, have authority to administer oaths, take acknowledgements; take and certify depositions, and are required to exhibit all records free of charge. In nearly all the states the law defines the character of the record books which the clerk of court must keep. Although there is no settled rule in this matter, the general provisions are that he shall keep: First, a general docket or register of actions, in which is entered the title of each action in the order in which they are commenced, and a description of each paper filed in the cause and all proceedings therein; second, a plaintiff's index and defendant's index; third, a judgment book and execution docket in which he enters the judgment in each action, time of issuing execution, satisfaction, etc., and such other books as the courts or the laws may prescribe.

SHERIFF.

In all of the states the office of sheriff is one of the most important of the county offices. The term of office varies in different states, being usually either two or four years, and in several of the states one party cannot hold the office a second term consecutively. The general provisions outlining the duties pertaining to this office are very much alike in the various states, and the following resume of his duties may be said to apply to all of the various states

except in a few minor and unimportant details. The sheriff is charged with the duty of keeping and preserving peace in his county; or, as has been written, "He is the conservator of peace," and it is his duty to keep the same, suppress riots, affrays, fighting, breaches of the peace and prevent crime, and may arrest offenders "on view" and cause them to be brought before the proper magistrate; and to do this, or to execute any writ, warrant, process, order or decree, he may call to his aid when necessary any person or the "power of the county." It is the duty of the sheriff to serve and execute within his county, and return, all writs, warrants, process, orders and decrees of every description that may be legally directed and delivered to him. He is a court officer, and it is his duty to attend, either in person or by deputy, all courts of record held in this county; by virtue of his office he has custody of the jail. It is his duty to pursue and apprehend felons and persons charged with crime and has custody of prisoners. He is not allowed to purchase any property exposed for sale by him as sheriff.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OR COMMISSIONER OF SCHOOLS.

This is an office which exists under one name or another in nearly every state in the Union. The title of the office in a great majority of the states is "county superintendent," but in Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, New York, and possibly one or two other states, the office is termed "school commissioner," and in several of the states the laws provide for a board of county examiners or school commissioners, who are given considerable of the work that in most of the other states is handled by the county superintendent.

The name of this office implies the duties which devolve upon it, and they are very much alike in all of the states. The incumbent of this office is charged with a general supervision over the schools of the county, and must be a fitting person as to education and moral character. As a rule it is his duty to examine the license teachers, but in a few of the states provision is made for a board of examiners. County superintendents are required to visit and inspect the schools at regular intervals, and give such advice and instruction to teachers as may be deemed necessary and proper. They are required to organize and conduct institutions for the instruction of teachers if deemed necessary, and encourage teachers' associations. They introduce to the notice of teachers and the people the best modes of instruction, the most approved plans of building and ventilating schoolhouses, etc., stimulate school officers to the prompt and proper discharge of their duties. They receive reports

from the various school officers, and transmit an abstract of these reports to the state superintendent, adding a report of the condition of the schools under their charge. In nearly all the states they are forbidden having any interest in the sale of any school furniture, apparatus or books used in the schools. In many states they have authority to annul a teacher's certificate for proper cause, and in general to take such steps and enforce such methods as will elevate and make more efficient the schools under their control.

COUNTY, PROSECUTING OR STATES ATTORNEY.

There is a great difference between the various states in the method of handling or attending to the legal business relating to county matters or growing from county affairs. In many of the states the official who attends to this line of work is known as the "county attorney," in other states he is called the states attorney or prosecuting or district attorney. In a few of the states they divide the state into districts embracing a number of counties, and a district attorney is elected in each district, who in some cases attends to all the legal work of the various counties, and in others he assists the county attorneys in their most important duties and prosecutions. But whatever plan may be followed in the various states, and whatever title may be given to this office, the general duties of the office are very much the same throughout all the states. It is the duty of the county attorney to commence and prosecute all actions, suits, indictments, and prosecutions, civil and criminal, in any court of record in his county in which the "people of the state or county" may be concerned; to prosecute all forfeited bonds and recognizances, and all actions for the recovery of debts, revenues, moneys, fines, etc., accruing to his county; to commence and prosecute all actions and proceedings brought by any county officer in his official capacity; to defend all actions and proceedings brought against his county, or against any county officer in his official capacity; to give legal opinions and advice to the county board or other county officers in relation to their official duties; to attend, if possible, all preliminary examinations of criminals. When requested he is required to attend sessions of the grand jury, examine witnesses in their presence, give legal advice and see that proper subpoenas and processes are issued; draw up indictments and prosecute the same. The county attorney is required, when requested by the attorney general, to appear for the state in cases in his county in which the state is interested. The county attorney makes an annual report to his superior state officer of all the criminal cases prosecuted by him:

PROBATE OR COUNTY JUDGE.

The method of handling probate matters is not uniform throughout the various states. In many states the higher courts are given jurisdiction over probate matters, and in others they have created districts in which are held probate courts, whose jurisdiction extends over several counties and takes in other matters besides purely probate affairs. In a majority of the states, however, particularly the western and northern states, they elect a county or a probate judge, who holds court and handles the probate matters which arise within his county. The jurisdiction of these county or probate courts is not always confined exclusively to probate matters, and they generally include such matters as apprenticeship affairs, adoptions, minors, etc. In some of the states they have both a county judge and a probate judge, and in these cases the jurisdiction of the latter is confined to such matters as are in line with probate matters. In Missouri they have a probate judge, and also a county court, composed of county judges, in whom the corporate powers of the county are vested—as the official county board. In Michigan they have a probate judge and a probate register. The probate judge is generally given original jurisdiction in all matters of probate, settlement of estates of deceased persons, appointment of guardians and conservators and settlement of their accounts. They take proof of wills, direct the administration of estates, grant and revoke letters testamentary and of administration, appoint and remove guardians, etc.

COUNTY SURVEYOR.

This is an office which is common to nearly all of the states. It is the duty of the county surveyor to execute any survey which may be ordered by any court, or upon application of any individual or corporation, and preserve a record of the surveys made by him. Nearly all of the states provide that certain records shall be kept by the county surveyor and provide penalties for his failure to place on record the surveys made by him. While he is the official surveyor, yet the surveys made by him are not conclusive, but may be reviewed by any competent tribunal, and the correctness thereof may be disputed.

COUNTY CORONER.

This is another county office which exists in nearly all of the states. In the average county there is not much work for the coroner, but in the counties in which large cities are located the office is a very important one. In general terms it may be stated that the coroner is required to hold inquests of persons supposed to have met with violent or unnatural deaths. In most states he has power to empanel a jury to enquire into the cause of death; but in some of them this is not the case, and he is given power to act alone. He can subpoena witnesses; administer oaths; in certain cases provide for a decent burial, and can bind over to the proper court any person implicated in the killing of the deceased.

OTHER COUNTY OFFICES.

The county offices that have already been mentioned are the principal ones found in all of the states. There are, however, a few other county officials besides those mentioned which exist in many of the states, and which should be briefly mentioned in this connection. These are such offices as county physician, county assessor, county collector, county poor commissioner or superintendent of the county poorhouse, master in chancery or court commissioner, county examiners, board of equalization, board of review, etc. The names of these offices imply the duties. These offices do not exist in all of the states, but in nearly every state the law provides for one or more of these county officials.

COUNTY BOARD.

The powers of every county as a body politic and corporate are vested in a county board. This official county board is generally termed the county "board of supervisors" or "board of commissioners," but there are some exceptions to this, like Missouri, where the county board is known as the "county court." There is considerable difference in the makeup of the county board in the various states. In some it is made up of one member from each township in the county. In others the counties are divided into districts, and one member of the county board is chosen from each district. No general description of this could be given that would be accurate, as some of the states follow both of these plans. For instance, in Illinois some of the counties are

governed by a board of supervisors, which is made up of one member from each township, while other counties in the same state are governed by a board of county commissioners, consisting of three or more members, each representing districts into which the counties in question are divided.

The general powers of the county board throughout all the states, is about the same, except in minor details. It represents the legislative and corporate powers of the county. One of their number is always chosen as chairman or president, and acts as the presiding officer. The county board has general charge over the affairs of the county. It is their duty to provide county offices, provide desks, stationery, books, fuel, etc.; examine, investigate and adjust claims against the county and have general care and custody of all the real and personal estate owned by the county. At regular intervals they settle with the county treasurer; examine accounts and vouchers. They locate county roads; determine the amount of county tax, and regularly publish a statement of their proceedings; make statements of receipts, expenditures, etc.; and make all contracts, and do all other acts in relation to the property and concerns of the county necessary to exercise its corporate powers that are not especially delegated to any other county officials.

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT.

The method of township government throughout the different states varies so much that it is impossible to treat of it more than in a general way. In many of the states the townships are not organized as bodies corporate, and in other states in some counties they may have township organization, while in other counties in the same state it does not exist. In cases where there is no township organization the law provides that certain county officers shall attend to the local work, or that work which in other localities is assumed by the township officials. But even where they have township organization the plan of township government in the different states where it exists differs so widely that scarcely any two states may be said to be alike. About the only statements concerning the organized townships that could be made which would apply to all the states are the following: Every organized township in its corporate capacity has power to sue and be sued; to acquire by purchase, gift or devise, and hold property, both real and personal, for the use of its inhabitants, and again to sell and convey the same; and to make all such contracts as may be necessary in the exercise of its powers as a township.

In a great many of the states the township government is carried on after a plan very similar to the county and state governments, having various executive officers and a township board in which the corporate and legislative powers of the township are vested. In other states they follow a plan which reserves to the people all corporate and legislative powers, and therefore have no need for a township board, but have various township officers to carry out the wishes and orders of the voters. Where this plan prevails they hold what it generally termed "town meetings," at which every legal voter of the township has a voice. At these meetings reports are had from the various township officials, and the necessary measures are adopted and directions given for carrying on the township business.

Still other states combine good features from both of the plans above mentioned, and besides the other usual township officials they maintain a township board, which is given certain restricted powers, such as those of a review or an auditing board, but they are not vested with the complete corporate and legislative powers of the township, this being reserved in a large measure to the voters, and all questions calling for the exercise of such authority are acted upon at the town meetings. In many of the states the township board just described is made up of three or more of the other township officers, who are ex officio members of the township board, and they meet at certain times, perform the work required of them, and report to the town meetings.

The principal officials in township organizations in nearly all the states are the following: "Supervisors, or trustees," "clerk," "treasurer," "assessor," "collector," "justices of the peace," "constables," "overseers," "supervisors or commissioners of highways," and "pound-masters," although as has been stated, many of the states do not have all of these officials.

The following is a list of the several townships composing the county of Ford, with the date of their organization, as a part of Ford county.

When the county was organized in June, 1859, it was divided into three townships: Patton, Stockton and Drummer Grove, and out of these three have been created the following:

Rogers	organized September 14, 1863
Brenton	organized March 17, 1864
Button	organized December 13, 1864
Dix	organized September 12, 1864
Wall	organized April 2, 1867
Sullivant	organized September 10, 1867
Lyman	organized September 10, 1867

Peach Orchard	organized September 15, 1868
Pella	organized March 2, 1870
Mona	organized March 2, 1870
Patton	organized February 16, 1856
Drummer	organized September 14, 1858

PAXTON.

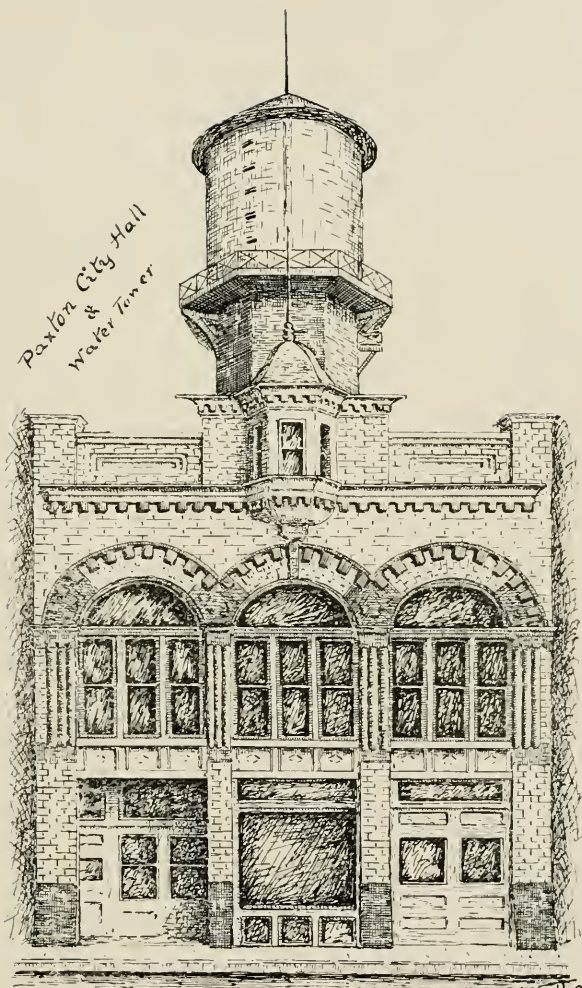
The city of Paxton is laid out in sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, in range 10 east, in the township of Patton. Most of it lies in sections 7 and 8. Nearly all of the blocks, lots and streets are laid out parallel with the Illinois Central Railroad, or on an angle of about fifteen degrees. The original town consisting of thirty-five blocks, lying on both sides of the railroad, was laid off in the spring of 1857, by A. D. Southworth, deputy county surveyor of Vermilion county. The land was owned by W. H. Pells, R. R. Murdock, Leander Britt, Benjamin Stites and D. Donally. The next addition to the town was the railroad addition, laid out north of the original town, in the spring of 1858, for Joseph E. Austin, A. H. Reynolds, Hiram C. Todd, L. Britt, R. R. Murdock and W. H. Pells. This addition consisted of fourteen whole blocks and twenty-one fractional blocks.

In 1867, W. H. Pells laid out Pells' addition west of the Illinois Central Railroad, consisting of twelve fractional blocks, adjoining the original town on the west, and the same year James Mix laid out forty-three blocks lying north and west of the railroad addition.

The next addition to Paxton was Pells' addition east of the Illinois Central Railroad, laid out in 1870, for William H. Pells, by H. J. Howe, county surveyor. This addition joins the original town on the east, and contains nineteen blocks. A small addition was laid off by Surveyor Howe, in the fall of 1870 for J. E. Hall and George Schlosser, consisting of one block, of fourteen lots, known as Hall's addition.

In 1875, R. R. Murdock laid off twenty-nine lots, in the northeast part of the town known as Murdock's addition. In March, 1877, S. J. Toy and A. C. Thompson, owners of lots 5 and 6 in Goodrich's subdivision caused a resurvey to be made, paying them off into four blocks of thirty-five lots, known as Toy & Thompson's addition.

Paxton City Hall
&
Water Tower



H. S. V. 111e
May 19

THE NAME.

Paxton has not always been the name of this town. When originally laid out, it was called Prospect City, and before that time it was known as Prairie City, which was also the name of the township before being changed to Patton. It continued to be called Prospect City until September, 1859, when a petition was presented to the county court, asking it to change the name of Prospect City to Paxton. The petition was granted, "and the place heretofore known as Prospect City shall hereafter be known by the name of Paxton."

It is authoritatively reported that Sir Richard Paxton, of England, was organizing a colony in that country to settle in Illinois, and it was thought that by naming this town Paxton, in honor of him, it might have some influence in inducing him to settle here.

This gentleman has a name in history as being the architect of the first crystal palace in London.

The change of name did not have the desired effect, but as the authorities saw no good reason for changing the name in consequence of this failure the name is still Paxton, and down in history.

EARLY COMERS TO THE CITY PRIOR TO 1859.

William Goodrich, John P. and Samuel L. Day, Charles and Fred Cloyes, John Buell, Thomas Buell, James Buck, J. F. Hall, Charles Oakley, S. M. Brown, Benjamin Stites, B. F. Stites, R. R. Murdock, L. Britt, W. H. Pells, James Cloyes, A. Martin, J. T. Bullard, I. W. Shilling, J. Covalt, N. Simons, O. B. Taft, John and Martin Ross, Dr. P. Myers, Henry Barnhouse, Alexander H. Hanley, John Hanley, Wheeler Bentley, Samuel L. Blain, Dr. John Mills, Dr. S. H. Birney, Dr. Way, Dr. Spencer, Dr. Camp, L. H. Tabor, William and Stacey Daniels, Thomas Lyon, A. McElroy, J. T. Nicholson, John J. Heckler, W. B. Swisher, Thomas Swisher, Paul Cooley, Dryden Donally, John S. Murdock, Ed Seymour, William Seville, A. B. Morey, Daniel Elms, George Forbes, Squire L. Edgar, Arthur Campbell, William and Henry Schenk, Benjamin Smith, Howard Case, Thomas Daniel, Henry R. Daggett, John Ryan, Elihu Swisher, Thomas F. Townsley, Edward L. Gill and W. H. Bruyn.

PAXTON IN THE PAST.

The first house in Paxton was the house owned by William Goodrich, which was originally built on the west side of the railroad, about one hundred yards

south of Ottawa street, and occupied as a boarding-house for men who were constructing the railroad.

In the spring of 1854, this house was moved up to Ottawa street and occupied by Mr. Goodrich as a dwelling. He afterward kept a store in the same building. This house was burned about 1877. Previous to this, however, a building had been erected by B. F. and J. N. Stites, on the present site of the Glen cemetery, this, properly speaking, was not in the limits of Prospect City as afterward laid out. In the fall of 1854, John Murphy built the later Stites' residence, and about the same time Stites Brothers put up a store building right opposite. Prospect City could not really be said to have any boom until 1857, the buildings erected previous to this date being those already mentioned, and I. W. Shilling's boarding-house adjacent to the Stites' residence on the east, afterward removed; the residence of Thomas Daniels within the same inclosure as the boarding-house, was used by Stites Brothers for a wagon-house. Directly opposite the Daniels' house stood the small octagon building which stood just across the road from the old cemetery. This building was occupied as a meeting place for the Spiritual Circle, their moving spirit being a certain Dr. Spencer. In 1856, the Stites Brothers sold out their store to Dryden Donally, who erected a residence between the store building and the one already mentioned as occupied by the Spiritualists. About this time Stacey Daniels built a house on the site that was occupied by Captain Shepardson's handsome residence.

In 1857 a small hotel was built on the southwest corner of block 13, original town, east of the railroad, and called the City Hotel. This building was afterward moved up near the depot, on the northeast corner of block 4, enlarged and christened the Bennett House. This hotel was destroyed by fire. Closely following those already mentioned came the store of Henry Barnhouse, Patton's block, and Abe Martin's store building on the east side of the railroad; and on the west side was Cloyes Brothers' store, on lot 1, block 12, now Lundberg's drug store; R. Clark's house on block 4, and the nucleus of the old Occidental Hotel. Our space will not warrant us to enter into a more general detail. Suffice to say, that stores, residences and offices rapidly multiplied from that time forward.

The first voting place was at Goodrich's residence, and afterward at the City Hotel.

First term of circuit court was held at the City Hotel, afterward at Hanley's Hall, in a building adjoining the Patton block on the west.

At an early date the postoffice was kept by Henry Barnhouse, at his store, nearly opposite the residence of B. Q. Cherry, just west of Paxton on the

Ottawa road, and our best information is that upon his removal to Paxton, Mr. Barnhouse brought the postoffice with him. The name of the postoffice was Ten Mile Grove, and when he opened the office here it was changed to Prospect City. It is thought by some that before the latter name was adopted it was called Prairie City. The office was next kept in the store of Cloyes Brothers.

The first child born in this city was Milton B. Swisher, in 1857, in the house that was occupied by the Stites family.

The first death was the wife of Stacey Daniels. She was buried in the old cemetery south of town.

The first marriage license issued in Ford county was by Nathan Simons, the clerk, to Charles W. Searing and Miss Sarah Bowles. They were married July 3, 1859, by Rev. A. C. Edwards.

J. D. Wilson started a harness shop in 1865, in a building that was just north of the Occidental Hotel. A Mr. Seeley opened the first shop here.

Messrs. Case & Williams started the first livery stable which stood on block 12, opposite where Putt's livery stable afterward stood.

Edward L. Gill opened the first butcher shop.

The first druggist here was J. McCormick, who had his store where Dahlgren's grocery store stood.

Henry Daggett had a tinshop which stood on the corner of block 4, where Clark's block now stands.

John J. Heckler was a shoemaker and had his shop in a back room of Seymour's house.

Edward Seymour opened the first blacksmith shop just west of the store of Henry Barnhouse.

William Daniels was the first carpenter, and Stacey Daniels the first mason in the town.

In 1858, forty-two houses were standing in Prospect City, and during a heavy wind storm, twenty-two of them were blown off their foundation and had to be repaired.

James Buck built the first elevator, which stood where White Brothers lumberyard stood.

Papineau & Martin had the first wagon shop; it stood on block 30, near where Mr. Hefner's house stood.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

The census of Ford county for 1860 reveals the fact that Paxton at that time had only two hundred and seventy-five inhabitants. As yet the little vil-

lage had no corporate existence, but in the spring of 1861, as the records show, "the citizens of Paxton convened, pursuant to notice, in Patton's Hall, for the purpose of electing five trustees for said town." At this election, which was held April 15, 1861, John P. Day, James G. Cloyes, L. H. Tabor, L. B. Farrar and Henry Barnhouse were elected trustees of the village.

At the first meeting of this board, John P. Day was elected president; R. S. Buckland, clerk; and Frederick Cloyes, treasurer. At a meeting held May 1, Samuel L. Blain was appointed street supervisor; Howard Case, assessor; John B. Buell, collector.

May 8 was enacted the first ordinance ever adopted by the board, and it was in relation to "Nuisances." This was followed at the same meeting by one on "Misdemeanors."

November 21 a resolution was passed authorizing the tax collector "to take all money that is at par." This was before the days of greenbacks and national bank bills, and the various kinds of paper money then in circulation were not all worth their face.

April 24, 1863, the first license for a liquor saloon was granted, under regulations and restrictions already prescribed by ordinance, the license fee being fixed at one hundred dollars per year, payable in advance.

October 9, 1865, the sum of one hundred and twenty-five dollars was voted to Francis Price, a civil engineer of Vermilion county, "to aid him in publishing a map of the town of Paxton," he to furnish the board twenty-five sheet maps and two mounted maps.

August 4, 1866, the first prohibitory liquor ordinance was passed. At this time there were saloons in the town operating under license previously obtained, and the board ordered that these be permitted to run until the expiration of the time for which their licenses were granted. From the time when this action was taken until the succeeding election, the saloon question attracted much attention and discussion, and became so prominent as an issue that the voters at the next election were given an opportunity to decide by ballot for or against granting saloon licenses.

At the first city election held September 5, 1872, John Bodley was elected mayor; James S. Wilson, clerk; L. B. Farrar, attorney; W. Hoag, treasurer; and William Harper, George Wright, Samuel L. Day, N. Dahlgren, G. J. Shepardson and B. F. Mason, aldermen.

November 4 a saloon license was granted to A. Anderson, being the first issued under city organization.

At a meeting held December 16 was laid the foundation for the expenditure of several thousand dollars, that unfortunately proved a worthless investment. Mayor Bodley informed the council that he was in receipt of a letter from a party in Chicago proposing to bore an artesian well in the city of Paxton if the people so desired. This announcement brought out an enthusiastic discussion, that was indulged in by spectators as well as aldermen. The minutes of this meeting record the fact that "Mr. Dunlap, of Champaign, was present, and made some interesting remarks." His remarks were adverse to the project, advising the board that it was a hazardous venture, basing his opinion on the fact that Paxton was located on ground so high that flowing artesian water could not be obtained, and cited numerous instances of failure in neighboring counties where the ground was much lower. At the meeting January 6, 1873, a petition was read praying the council to appropriate eight thousand five hundred dollars "for the purpose of boring or sinking an artesian well." This petition was signed by two hundred and ten legal voters, which was a large majority of the voting population, there being at that time less than three hundred voters in the city. The prayer of this petition was granted, and an ordinance passed providing for the issue of bonds for that amount and for that purpose.

January 20, 1873, the artesian well question came up again, the finance committee reporting several proposals for sinking such a well, the highest bid being eight thousand dollars in cash, and the lowest seven thousand dollars in cash, or seven thousand four hundred dollars in bonds, at ninety-five cents on the dollar, all being for boring to the depth of sixteen hundred feet. The bid of seven thousand four hundred dollars on bonds at ninety-five cents was accepted, and a contract ordered to be drawn up ready for signatures at the next meeting.

February 4 was passed an ordinance providing for the issue of bonds known as funded debt bonds, to the amount of fifteen hundred dollars. These bonds were in sums of five hundred dollars each, bearing interest at ten per cent from March 1, 1874, and the remainder (five hundred dollars) falling due March 1, 1875. These bonds were sold by the finance committee at a discount of five per cent, and the proceeds applied to the redemption of the greater portion of the outstanding city orders. Of the bonds thus issued the first two (one thousand dollars) were paid June 1, 1874, ninety days after maturity, and the remaining bond for five hundred dollars was paid April 12, 1875, forty-two days after maturity.

March 3 an ordinance was passed locating the well on lot 14, block 14, south side of State street, between Market and Taft streets.

October 20 a petition, signed by two hundred legal voters, was submitted, praying the council to appropriate an additional sum of seven thousand dollars in bonds for the purpose of continuing the work on the artesian well beyond the depth of sixteen hundred feet. This was granted by a unanimous vote, and an ordinance was passed embodying the action prayed for in the petition, and on the 19th of November the contract was let to Spangler, Mars & Company, and ratified January 5, the contractors to accept city bonds at ninety-five cents on the dollar.

June 21 two thousand five hundred dollars of bonds were issued to continue the work on the well. When the previous appropriation of seven thousand dollars was made, it was estimated that this amount would carry the well to a depth of two thousand five hundred feet, but now it was found to have been insufficient.

July 6, the board adopted a resolution suspending the work on the well "until such time as the boring may be resumed," and a settlement was then made with the contractors. The well was down to the depth of two thousand four hundred and seventy-three and a half feet. In just two days after the passage of this resolution, a petition signed by one hundred and sixty-one legal voters was submitted to the council, praying that work on the well be resumed on conditions therein named, one of which was that a part of the expense be paid by private subscriptions. This proposition was laid over until an adjourned meeting held the next night, when it was voted to sink the well two hundred feet deeper, for which the remaining one thousand dollars of bonds not yet expended was pledged (being a part of the previous two thousand five hundred dollars appropriated) provided the citizens should raise whatever balance was necessary to satisfy the contractors. This was done, and the additional two hundred feet completed, making a total depth of two thousand six hundred and seventy-three and a half feet, and still no flowing water obtained. The project was then abandoned and has never been resumed.

At the annual election held April 17, 1883, George J. Shepardson was elected mayor; George A. Hall, clerk; J. R. Patrick, attorney; Charles H. Langford, treasurer; John M. Hall, police magistrate; John White, alderman for the first ward; A. S. Hopkins for the second, and George Gove for the third. At a meeting of the council, April 24, an ordinance was passed consolidating the offices of city marshal and street superintendent, and on the 30th of this month George N. Miller was appointed under this ordinance to fulfill

the duties of both offices. At the same meeting, an ordinance was passed providing for the appointment of a city physician to advise and consult with the board of health, and on May 8 Dr. Elmer L. Kelso was appointed to that office.

The work on the artesian well was begun March, 1873. The first sixteen hundred feet was completed in November, 1874, and the final depth of two thousand six hundred and seventy-three and a half feet was reached in August, 1875, nearly two years and a half from the time of commencement. The work, however, was not actively progressing during all this time, as there were several intervals of rest resulting from various causes. In payment of this work, city bonds to the amount of eighteen thousand dollars were issued, in sums of five hundred dollars each, all bearing ten per cent interest. On these bonds the city had already paid fourteen thousand sixty-six dollars and fourteen cents of interest, and there remained to be paid in yearly installments, up to 1896 inclusive, interest to the amount of nine thousand one hundred and sixty dollars, making the sum of twenty-three thousand two hundred and twenty-six dollars and fourteen cents of interest from 1873 to 1896. To this amount add eighteen thousand dollars of principal, and nine hundred and forty-five dollars and twenty-two cents of sundry incidental expenses, and the result is a grand total of forty-two thousand one hundred and seventy-one dollars and thirty-six cents, representing what the experiment would have cost when the last item of the debt was paid thirteen years afterward. At the date of the final abandonment of the well, there were outstanding bonds to the full amount of the appropriations, eighteen thousand dollars, of which eight thousand five hundred dollars were known as March bonds, and the remaining nine thousand five hundred dollars as July bonds, indicating the months in which the principal and interest fell due. The principal of the March bonds began to mature March 1, 1879, and a portion of them each year thereafter up to 1883. In July, 1878, as already stated, the council provided for refunding the March bonds into July bonds, at a lower rate of interest and to run longer. The whole amount, however, was not refunded at that time, but only the amount falling due March 1, 1879, which was fifteen hundred dollars. This fifteen hundred dollars due March 1, 1880, and the fifteen hundred dollars due March 1, 1881, were not refunded, but were paid by general taxation. The remaining March bonds, four thousand dollars were afterward refunded as they became due. The first three bonds, fifteen hundred dollars were exchanged for bonds drawing 8 per cent interest, and the remaining four thousand dollars for 6 per cent bonds. The first of the refunding bonds began to fall due July 1, 1893, which was one year beyond the date when the last of the original July bonds would fall

due. All the March bonds having been refunded, all the obligations then outstanding were July bonds, the first of which matured July 1, 1884, at which time one thousand dollars of them would be due and payable, and a tax was levied to meet it. After that date, bonds to the amount of one thousand dollars matured each year until 1892, when fifteen hundred dollars became due, being the last of the ten per cent bonds. In July, 1893, the eight per cent bonds again matured in similar amounts, and lastly the six per cent bonds, a portion payable each year, until the last one matured, July 1, 1896. Of the March bonds a portion (three thousand dollars) had been paid as already noted, which left fifteen thousand dollars now outstanding, of which amount the original July bonds (nine thousand five hundred) bore ten per cent interest, while of the refunding bonds (fifteen hundred dollars) were at eight per cent and four thousand dollars at six per cent, and hence the interest paid in 1884 was one thousand three hundred and ten dollars, but the annual interest thereafter, for several years, decreased one hundred dollars each succeeding year; if the bonds were paid, one thousand dollars yearly, as they became due, from 1884 to 1896.

PAXTON WATERWORKS.

The city of Paxton has a splendid waterworks system, built and put into operation in 1887, bonds being issued at that time to the amount of approximately eight thousand dollars. Mains have been extended all over the city and the patronage is very satisfactory. The fire protection afforded is a guarantee to the citizens of reasonable safety, and lessens insurance rates to a marked degree.

Three deep wells, furnishing an abundant supply of pure soft water, have been drilled, and three electric motors are used, as the occasion demands, to fill a reservoir that has a capacity of one hundred and ninety thousand gallons, and a tower, with tank of sixty thousand capacity.

From year to year as the city has grown, mains have been laid and today, no city of its size in Illinois has a better waterworks system than Paxton.

PAVED STREETS.

Paxton is proud of her paved streets and in that connection, it may be said, she has more paving than any city of like proportion in the whole state of Illinois. The people of Paxton have a lively sense of the beautiful. They love comfort and the modern conveniences of life. They enjoy the blessing of good health, and stop at no expense to attain these things. Hence, no difficulty was

met when the proposition was broached in the spring of 1903, that certain streets of the city should be paved. July 6 of that year, an ordinance was passed for the paving, with brick, of Center and Washington streets. The work was accomplished and the sum of twenty-seven thousand dollars was issued in bonds for the payment of the same. In 1904, an ordinance was passed for the paving of State and West streets. To pay for this, eighty-four hundred dollars in bonds were issued. Pells street came next, July 3, 1905, and bonds for fifteen thousand three hundred dollars readily found a market and, April 2, 1906, an ordinance was passed for the paving of Market, Orleans and Patton streets, the cost of which came to twenty-nine thousand seven hundred dollars, making in the aggregate, since 1903, the outlay of eighty thousand four hundred dollars for street paving.

It may be said in passing, that the work has been well done and the added convenience and beauty to the city, not forgetting the sanitary aspect of the matter that might be taken, is full compensation for the money expended.

Mention in this connection should also be made that a system of sewage has been placed in the city, costing to date about twenty thousand dollars.

THE CITY HALL.

In 1889 a contract was let to N. P. Neilson, of Paxton, to build a city hall which, in the aggregate, cost six thousand dollars. The building was finished and dedicated in the spring of 1900. It is of modern architecture, exteriorally; has a large and commodious council chamber, and fireproof vaults for the records of the city. Here is also the police department, and the hose wagons and other paraphernalia of the fire department. To the rear of the main floor is the waterworks station. The arrangement is an excellent one, both for convenience and an expense saving contrivance.

THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

E. B. Pitney is the father of the Carnegie library. It was his idea from the beginning, and when he broached the subject in public, he was put down as an ultra-enthusiast. It happened, however, that he was not only an enthusiast, but also was in possession of ideas practical. He happened to have a personal acquaintance with Mr. Carnegie's private secretary, and he wrote him, in an inquiring way, and at once got a reply, in which he was given the assurance that Mr. Carnegie would give Paxton ten thousand dollars on condition

that the citizens would guarantee to supply a fund, not less than ten per cent of the donation, each year, to maintain the library.

In February, 1903, the city council passed an ordinance for the levying of a two-mill tax (annual) for the maintenance of the Carnegie library. At a special meeting Mayor M. H. Cloud appointed as the first board of directors: H. C. Hall, J. B. Shaw, C. A. Larson, M. L. McQuiston, E. Given, O. J. Bainum, Fred Danielson, J. F. G. Helmer and E. B. Pitney.

The present members of the board are as follows: President, O. J. Bainum; secretary, E. B. Pitney; treasurer, J. B. Shaw; M. L. McQuiston, C. S. Schneider, Fred Danielson, C. A. Larson, John F. G. Helmer, P. A. Kemp.

October 12, 1903, the corner stone of the beautiful structure was laid on a lot seemingly designed for the purpose, on the corner of Market and Orleans streets. Mr. Pitney deposited a copper box therein, closely sealed, containing coin, newspapers of the county, a bar docket, and many other things of interest that will be looked upon with wonder by the generation seeing the last of the edifice.

The dedication took place in the summer of 1904, and the exercises were both interesting and instructive.

The first books were donated by the Methodist Episcopal church. The library now has four thousand five hundred volumes.

Paxton is a city and has recently taken on city airs. She now has a free delivery of mail, with three carriers. The following have served as postmasters since 1884: T. M. King, Mrs. Georgia E. Blackstone, E. N. Stevens, S. L. Day, A. E. Sheldon, and D. C. Swanson, the present postmaster.

FIRE COMPANY.

Paxton has a volunteer fire department with hook and ladder and wagon and hose cart. Chief, Frank Corbett; assistant chief, George Turner; secretary, Gus Younggreen; treasurer, Fred Labarn; and the membership: William Stites, John Prestin, Joseph Corbett, John Corbett, Oscar Nelson, George Pappineau.

Mayors of Paxton: 1884—mayor, G. J. Shepardson, clerk, George A. Hall; 1886—mayor, G. J. Shepardson, clerk, E. Dufresue; 1888—mayor, J. P. Middlecoff, clerk, H. H. Kerr; 1890—mayor, G. J. Shepardson, clerk, H. H. Kerr; 1892—mayor, John H. Moffett, clerk, H. H. Kerr; 1893—mayor, F. E. Bonney, clerk, D. C. Swanson; 1894—mayor, F. E. Bonney, clerk, D. C. Swanson; 1896—mayor, J. P. Middlecoff, clerk, D. C. Swanson;

1898—mayor, R. Cruzen, clerk, D. C. Swanson; 1900—mayor, R. Cruzen, clerk, D. C. Swanson; 1902—mayor, M. H. Cloud, clerk, D. C. Swanson; 1904—mayor, R. Cruzen, clerk, E. C. Bogardus; 1906—mayor, A. J. Lawrence, clerk, E. M. Grayson; 1908—mayor, C. E. Beach, clerk, E. M. Grayson.

GRANT MEMORIAL SERVICES.

General U. S. Grant died July 23, 1885. Under the auspices of Paxton Post, No. 387, G. A. R., memorial services were held in Paxton, August 8, of the same year, in honor of the illustrious soldier and statesman.

COLLEGIATE AND NORMAL INSTITUTE.

The collegiate institute was Paxton's special pride. It owed its origin, gradual growth and high standing to the liberality and intelligence of the citizens of Paxton and vicinity. The first move made toward its establishment was to discard the public high school, and hold out inducements for the establishment of an academy.

In the autumn of 1878 Rev. C. Thompson Kellogg opened a school in the buildings formerly used by the Augustana College. At the beginning of the next year, the school was started by Charles M. Taylor, who was principal, and continued that year in the same buildings. During the summer of 1880, the corner stone of the magnificent brick structure which was occupied by the school, was laid. This was due to the enterprise of the principal and liberality of the community who contributed several hundred dollars toward taking out scholarships and tuition certificates to the amount of some four thousand dollars. With this aid, improvements were made, and the college was one of the finest in eastern Illinois. The school had incorporated in its foundation, principles of economy and thoroughness, and systematically worked toward the accomplishment of both. There was, perhaps, not a school in the country where expenses were as low, and the standard of scholarship was rivaled at very few places. The moral atmosphere was exceptionally good. No person was allowed to remain in the institution who did not devote himself to school work. While the discipline was in a sense most rigid, it was purely democratic. The principal was not regarded a tyrant nor the faculty a set of despots; neither did the pupils take delight in tormenting, or in getting ahead of their teachers. Pupils were received as ladies and gentlemen, and when

they showed themselves not so, they were dismissed. Parents concerned in the harmonious development of their children's physical, mental and moral condition could not have found a better place.

This institution went out of existence in 1901.

BUSINESS INTERESTS.

Paxton was never in a more solid and flourishing condition than at present. Its citizens are prosperous and manifest a great deal of interest in the prosperity of this town. A number of wealthy and substantial farmers have moved here from the adjacent country for the purpose of obtaining for their children the benefits of the schools. Paxton is conceded to have no superior as a town for the social and neighborly qualities of its citizens. The greatest harmony prevails and the interests of all converge to the welfare of this little city.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

The first banking business was conducted by the Ford County and First National Banks. The Ford County Bank was the first and pioneer bank of the county, and was opened for business in the house owned by A. McElroy on Market street, on the 1st day of January, 1866, by S. J. Toy, who came from Champaign county. In the spring of 1867, he moved into Pells' block. On the 1st day of August, 1868, A. C. Thompson, but recently from Pennsylvania, joined Mr. Toy in the banking business, putting in an equal amount of capital. In the spring of 1869 they broke ground for their new bank building, and in the autumn of that year moved into their new quarters, where they continued business together for about three years under the firm name of Toy & Thompson. November 1, 1871, S. J. Toy, A. C. Thompson, Robert Blackstock, Edwin Rice and C. E. Henderson organized the First National Bank of Paxton, Illinois, with a capital of fifty thousand dollars. A. C. Thompson was made president, and S. J. Toy, cashier. Mr. Toy held that position until the spring of 1874, when he sold out his interest to J. M. Clevenger, and Robert Blackstock was made cashier. The bank continued business until the 10th of February, 1876, when they closed out by voluntary liquidation. After which, A. C. Thompson, Robert Blackstock and W. M. Blackstock organized the Ford County Bank of Thompson, Blackstock & Compnay, successors to the First National Bank, which continued under their management until the 15th of April, 1883,

at which time Mr. Blackstock withdrew from the firm, and on the 3d of May following, Edwin Rice, a prominent and well known business man of Paxton, took a third interest in the bank, which run under the same firm name. These gentlemen were well known for their obliging manners and financial responsibility. The First National Bank was organized in 1883, with S. P. Bushnell, president; J. S. Wilson, vice president, and J. B. Shaw, cashier, and A. S. Bushnell, assistant cashier. They commenced business May 7, 1883, with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, and have established a good reputation. In the fall of 1883, Mr. Wilson withdrew from the bank, and John P. Day was elected in his place as vice president. This bank is a successor of George Wright, who kept a private bank here for many years. This bank is doing a successful business, and enjoys the entire confidence of the people. Its present officers are J. B. Shaw, president; E. A. Gardner, vice president; William H. White, cashier; and H. B. Shaw, assistant cashier. The capital and surplus of the bank, one hundred thousand dollars.

PAXTON BANK.

The Paxton Bank was organized in 1894 by W. A. Rankin, B. H. Dunham and W. J. Lateer. It is a private institution. Capital and surplus seventy-five thousand dollars. W. A. Rankin, the president, B. H. Dunham, vice president, W. J. Lateer, cashier, and O. J. Egnall, assistant cashier.

THE PAXTON BUILDING, LOAN AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION.

The Paxton Building, Loan and Savings Association was organized January 29, 1883, with a capital stock of five hundred thousand dollars, divided into shares of one hundred dollars each. The object of the association is to afford its members a safe and profitable investment for their weekly savings; to facilitate their acquiring homesteads and to secure to them the advantages usually expected from savings and cooperative institutions. The duration of the corporation is twenty-five years. The corporate powers are exercised by a board of directors. Its offices consist of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Each stockholder for each and every share of stock held by him, pays to the secretary every Saturday, the weekly contribution of twelve and a half cents on each share he holds, until each share reaches a value of one hundred dollars, when such stockholder is entitled to one hundred dollars for each share owned by him. No member is entitled to more than fifty shares.

Any member can withdraw at any time by giving due notice and be entitled to receive the amount paid in by him, and such interest thereon or proportion of profits thereon as the board of directors shall prescribe, and not less than an amount equal to four per cent interest on the amount of dues paid in for the average time.

PAXTON BRICK & TILE COMPANY.

The Paxton Brick & Tile Company was organized and incorporated April 1, 1882, with the following stockholders: Colonel Charles Bogardus, A. M. Daggett, F. L. Cook, J. P. Middlecoff, of Paxton, and P. Whitmer, of Bloomington. The factory is located on College Hill, within the corporate limits of Paxton, and on the highest point of land between Chicago and Cairo. They have a deposit of fine clay reaching to a depth of sixteen feet below the surface. The quality of this clay is not excelled for the purpose of the manufacture of brick.

THE PAXTON BUGGY COMPANY

In 1898, I. N. Cool, whose business as a buggy manufacturer had outgrown his facilities at Logansport, Indiana, came to Paxton, by invitation of its citizens, and was installed in a large, three-story brick building, the gift of the business men and property owners of Paxton. In this modern factory building, Mr. Cool set up the latest improved machinery, which made the cost of the entire plant thirty thousand dollars.

The capacity of this concern was five thousand vehicles per year, and the output found a ready market. But, through the failure of the chief factor in the concern, the plant went into liquidation and passed into the hands of other parties, who gave it the name of The Paxton Buggy Company. It was only a short time when this company went out of business, and the factory building reverted to the donors, who have made arrangements to turn it over to the present occupants, The E. H. Stafford Furniture Company, when the latter shall have complied with certain conditions obligatory on their part to fulfill.

THE PAXTON CANNING FACTORY.

Through the efforts of J. P. Middlecoff, R. Cruzen and others, a company was formed in 1888, and the Paxton Canning Factory was built and started

operations. This became one of the important industrial institutions of the county and today, when the season opens, gives employment to about two hundred people. The chief products of the concern are red kidney beans and select sugar corn. Some years ago the concern ceased to be a stock company and went into the hands of R. Cruzen, his brother, J. E. Cruzen, and W. M. Wilson. The plant is a large one, the buildings of brick and the ground space covers a block. The equipment is modern and the product finds a ready market.

FURNITURE MANUFACTORY.

The large building, formerly the home of the Paxton Buggy Company, was installed with the machinery and material of the E. H. Stafford Manufacturing Company, of Chicago, in 1907. This concern is one of the largest of its kind in the country, and has its main factory at Albion, Michigan. The products of the plant here are various kinds of furniture. About one hundred and fifty men are employed.

PAXTON BROOM FACTORY.

The broom factory of Paxton has been in existence for many years, but not until recently has it been in quarters adequate for the business accomplished.

In the fall of 1907, S. H. Hill, the proprietor, through the efforts and assistance of the Retail Merchants' Association, was enabled to occupy a large and commodious new two-story brick building and now, with improved machinery, the concern is employing thirty people, and turning out an article that finds a ready market.

THE KRAMER ROTARY HARROW COMPANY.

Paxton has a harrow manufactory which was established in 1906, by the E. M. Kramer Company, which was induced to locate in the city by the Retail Merchants' Association. This concern is occupying space in the Paxton Hardware Manufactory building, but has good prospects of having suitable quarters of its own. Thirty people are in the employ of this company.

THE MIDDLECOFF.

The rapid growth of Paxton and the increase of her business establishments made it imperative that larger and better hotel facilities should be provided for

the traveling commercial man and visitors to the city. Several of the influential men of Paxton had long determined that a modern caravansary was none too good for the county seat and, in the fall of 1895, a meeting was called by J. P. Middlecoff, C. Bogardus and others, and the Paxton Hotel Company was organized. A board of directors was chosen of the following personnel: J. P. Middlecoff, C. Bogardus, Geo. H. Proctor, J. B. Shaw, W. J. Lateer, F. E. Bonney and C. A. Larson. President, J. P. Middlecoff; vice president, W. J. Lateer; secretary, F. E. Bonney; treasurer, J. B. Shaw.

At the beginning of the next year the building was under course of construction. The plans had been drawn by O. Moratz, of Bloomington, and contract let to N. P. Neilson, of Paxton. In the fall of 1896, the magnificent structure was completed, at a cost of thirty-six thousand dollars, including the site.

The Middlecoff is modern in structure and its appointments. Is three stories in height and has a basement, which is given over to sample rooms for commercial travelers. The north and west fronts are of red pressed brick, trimmed in stone. The hostelry was opened by George A. Proctor. William Elder, formerly of the Paxton House, is the present landlord.

PAXTON HOTEL.

The Paxton Hotel was formally opened January 21, 1886. About four hundred people were present at the banquet given on the occasion by Henry Weaver, the proprietor. Speeches were made of a congratulatory nature, by A. C. Thompson of the Ford County Bank; Judge A. Sample, Dr. R. N. Davies, Hon. O. D. Sackett, B. F. Mason, Hon. J. P. Middlecoff, J. E. Lewis of Fairbury; and W. S. Richards of Kankakee. These were supplemented by addresses from Mesdames Garrett, Cook, Sample and G. E. Abbott. The hotel at the time was considered one of the best in this section of the state and now, after being vacant some while, is again catering to the needs of the public.

RETAIL MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION OF PAXTON.

On the evening of March 20, 1902, a meeting of importance to the city of Paxton, was held in its city hall, and the business men of the place evinced their interest in the purposes of the gathering by attending. Paxton had, apparently, become inert; was not moving and keeping pace with her sister cities. The object of the meeting was to stir up the business men of the town



MIDDLECOFF HOTEL, PAXTON



and awaken them to the fact that a systematic effort should be put forth to induce outsiders seeking a location to come to Paxton. At a subsequent meeting the Retail Merchants' Association was organized and F. E. Bonney was made its president, Geo. R. Happ, vice president, F. M. Thompson, secretary. Since that time, Paxton has gone forward and has today, through the instrumentality of the association, industries that are beneficial to the community, and bid fair to being a good investment to the city. The members of the Retail Merchants' Association are men of energy, enterprise and of public spirit, and the association in its endeavors, is meeting with general approval and support from the public. Present officers: T. J. Vimont, president; D. G. Bailey, vice president; E. T. Froyd, treasurer and secretary.

MOUNT OLIVET COMMANDERY BLOCK.

The corner stone of the Masonic block, a large three-story building on the corner of Market and State streets, was laid with impressive rites on the evening of July 30, 1885. The dedication took place, followed by a banquet to eminent Sir Knights, October 21, 1886.

THE HOME CULTURE CLUB.

An association of women, with the title as shown in the caption of this article, was formed in Paxton in 1894, and is today the only one of its kind in Ford county. Mrs. J. W. Reed and Mrs. William Happ, no longer residents of that city, were the promoters of the society, and with them were Mesdames S. M. Wylie, O. H. Wylie, Ernest D. Given, A. Coomes and E. A. Gardner. Present officers: Mrs. E. A. Gardner, president; Mrs. D. P. McCracken, vice president; Mrs. E. L. Morgan, secretary; Miss E. F. McHarry, corresponding secretary; Mrs. E. Thompson, treasurer; Mrs. A. F. Trams, critic.

The purposes of organization have been for higher literary culture and belle lettres. The association was, until 1896, an independent club, but in that year it was federated with the state organization. There is now a membership of twenty-three.

SOCIETIES AND FRATERNITIES OF PAXTON.

Mt. Olivet Commandery, No. 38, K. T.

May 9, 1870, Charles Edward Munger, grand commander, granted a dispensation for this commandery to the following named Sir Knights:

Solomon Jacob Toy, Charles Henry Hawley, Joshua Eaton Davis, Benjamin Franklin Mason, Allen Shepardson, Julius Wallace Scott, Thomas Evan Barnhouse, Wilson Hoag, George Jeremiah Shepardson.

First conclave was held on the 5th day of August, A. D., 1870, in J. W. Scott's Hall.

October 21, A. D., 1870, Solomon Jacob Toy, E. C., conferred the orders on Jonathan Penn Middlecoff, Norman Edmund Stevens, Ransom Reed Murdock, Tufve S. Johnson, William Lewis, Finley McClellan Hall.

Date of charter, October 26, A. D., 1870; constituted, January 25, A. D., 1871, by Eminent Sir Francis Granger Jaques acting as proxy for the grand commander of the Grand Commandery of the State of Illinois.

Past commanders: Solomon J. Toy, 1870-73; Jonathan P. Middlecoff, 1873-75, 77-79; Benjamin F. Mason, 1875-77; George J. Shepardson, 1879-84; John M. Hanley, 1884-86; Samuel J. LeFevre, 1886-87; Robert S. Hall, 1887-88, 89-90; John S. Hewins, 1888-89; Charles H. Yeomans, 1890-91; Allen S. Bushnell, 1891-95, 97-98; Edward A. Gardner, 1895-97; Charles H. Langford, 1898-99; George H. Proctor, 1899-1901; Harry B. Henderson, 1901-02; George W. Younggreen, 1902-03; Reuben J. Atwood, 1903-04; Murray E. Hunt, 1904-06; John D. Schwimmer, 1906-08.

Present officers: John D. Schwimmer, E. C., Askel R. Sheldon, general; William Albert Pfeiffer, C. G.; Abel A. Hanson, S. W.; Rufus Keator, J. W.; Murray E. Hunt, prelate; William B. Henderson, treasurer; Reuben J. Atwood, recorder; Samuel M. Newlin, St. B.; Herman A. Nelson, Sw. B.; Thomas Gallagher, warder; Gustavus A. Younggreen, sentinel.

Present membership, one hundred and fifty-six Sir Knights.

Stated conclaves are held on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The annual conclave is the first stated conclave in June.

During the spring of 1885 the question of building a Masonic temple was brought before the commandery. A committee consisting of Sir Knights J. P. Middlecoff, C. M. Taylor, George Grove and J. Y. Campbell were appointed to investigate and to report as to the cost of a suitable building. At a subsequent conclave they reported plans and estimates. It was voted to build and the committee on estimate was constituted a building committee with power to make contracts, sell bonds, pay out money, etc., in the name of the commandery. In June, 1885, the ground was broken and the building progressed as rapidly as possible and was finally completed at a cost of about twenty thousand dollars.

In 1889 the commandery directed the trustees to sell all of the building below the third story reserving a perpetual right of ingress and egress to said

third story, which was done. Since then about twenty-five hundred dollars has been expended in improvements in the asylum rooms.

At this date the asylum is owned by the commandery, the commandery is free from indebtedness and has about two thousand dollars in the treasury and an income of about four hundred dollars per year from the rent of the asylum rooms to the other Masonic bodies in Paxton.

PAXTON LODGE, NO. 416, ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS.

Date of Charter, October 5th, 1864.

Charter members, L. A. Barber, J. O. Young, Fred Cloyes, James F. Hall, Charles M. Oakley, H. A. Kelso, John P. Day, P. W. Cooley, W. H. Patton, T. L. Miller, R. R. Murdock, J. G. Cloyes, S. L. Day, J. Covalt, M. M. Davison, J. E. Davis, Wm. Davis, D. R. Richards, Jr., Nathan Simons, and A. J. Lyon.

First officers, L. A. Barber, W. M.; J. O. Young, S. W.; Fred Cloyes, J. W.

The original charter and the early records of the lodge were destroyed by fire October 4, 1874.

Names of past masters: L. A. Barber, 1864; J. O. Young, 1865-66; Wilson Hoag, 1867-71; Benj. F. Mason, 1872-76, 79-80, 1884; Alfred Sample, 1877-78; Robert S. Hall, 1881-83, 1885-86; Franc L. Cook, 1887; Allen S. Bushnell, 1888; Chas. H. Langford, 1889-90; Edw. A. Gardner, 1891-92, 1894, 1898; Frederick E. Bonney, 1893, 1899; Harry B. Henderson, 1895-97, 1901; Harry W. Mason, 1900; Reuben J. Atwood, 1902; Murray E. Hunt, 1903; John P. Irwin, 1904; George W. Younggreen, 1905; John D. Schwimmer, 1906; Robt. B. Coddington, 1907.

Present Officers, 1908: Nels Larson, W. M.; Leonidas J. Ireland, S. W.; William B. Henderson, J. W.; Nels Younggreen, treasurer; Reuben J. Atwood, secretary; Clifford E. Beach, S. D.; Edward B. Pitney, J. D.; Samuel Newlin, chaplain; Robert B. Coddington, marshal; Daniel G. Bailey, S. S.; Gustavus A. Younggreen, J. S.; Frank Corbett, organist; William W. Reser, tyler.

Membership on May 18, 1908, one hundred and thirteen.

Stated communications are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The first stated communication in June is the annual communication.

The following is self-explanatory:

May 22, 1908.

Dr. R. J. Atwood,
Paxton, Ill.,

Dear Brother:—

The records of the office of the grand secretary having been destroyed by fire in 1870 I can find nothing whatever about the dispensation, either when granted or its officers. The officers of the lodge in 1864 were as follows:

N. Simons, treasurer; J. F. Hall, secretary; J. J. Simons, S. D.; T. L. Miller, J. D.; C. M. Oakley, S. S.; J. P. Day, J. S.; Rev. M. M. Davison, chaplain; P. W. Cooley, tyler.

With kind regards, your truly,

Isaac Cutter,

Grand Secretary.

FORD CHAPTER, NO. 113, ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

On February 28, 1867, the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Illinois issued a dispensation to companions Solomon J. Toy, William H. Bradley, L. T. Hewins, S. M. Newlin, Wilson Hoag, M. E. Wandell, Isaac Cross, J. C. Young, and A. Cross empowering said companions to form and open a chapter after the manner and form of Royal Arch Masons to be known as Ford Chapter U. D. and to confer the degrees of the chapter.

The first convocation of Ford Chapter U. D. was held in Paxton on April 3, 1867. G. J. Shephardson, R. C. Christian and E. L. Clark were the first three to receive the Royal Arch degree.

Officers of Ford Chapter U. D., S. J. Toy, M. E. H. P.; Wilson Hoag, king; L. T. Hewins, scribe; G. J. Shephardson, C. H.; Samuel M. Newlin, P. S.; R. C. Christian, R. A. C.; Allen Shephardson, G. M. 3d V.; J. W. Scott, G. M. 2d V.; J. Y. Campbell, G. M. 1st V.; R. R. Murdock, treasurer; E. L. Clark, secretary; T. E. Barnhouse, sentinel.

Date of charter, October 4, 1867.

Charter members of Ford Chapter, No. 113, Royal Arch Masons: Roland C. Christian, Eugene B. Hill, R. R. Murdock, William Lewis, G. J. Shephardson, Thos. E. Barnhouse, John J. Simons, Wilson Hoag, S. J. Toy, L. T. Hewins, J. P. Middlecoff, F. D. Matchet, J. W. Scott, N. E. Stevens, S. M. Newlin, J. Y. Campbell, Isaac Barker, E. L. Clark.

The chapter was constituted October 10, 1867, by R. E. G. Scribe A. A. Murray with the following officers: S. J. Toy, M. E. H. P.; Wilson Hoag, E. king;

L. T. Hewins, E. Scribe; G. J. Shepardson, C. H.; Samuel M. Newlin, P. S.; R. C. Christian, R. A. C.; J. W. Scott, G. M. 3d V.; N. E. Stevens, G. M. 2d V.; E. B. Hill, G. M. 1st V.; R. R. Murdock, treasurer; O. B. Taft, secretary; T. E. Barnhouse, sentinel.

Past high priests of Ford Chapter, No. 113, R. A. M.: S. J. Toy, 1867-72; Wilson Hoag, 1873; G. J. Shepardson, 1874-76, 78-84; Wm. Noel, 1877; Benjamin F. Mason, 1885-87, 1891-94; Samuel Newlin, 1888-90, 95-96, 1902, 1906-07; Frederick E. Bonney, 1897-98; Edward A. Gardner, 1899-1900; C. H. Langford, 1901; Reuben J. Atwood, 1903; John D. Schwimmer, 1904-05.

Present officers, 1908: Murray E. Hunt, E. H. P.; William A. Pfeiffer, king; Thomas Gallagher, scribe; Nels Larson, treasurer; Reuben J. Atwood, secretary; Frank M. Corlies, chaplain; Samuel M. Newlin, C. H.; John D. Schwimmer, P. S.; Frederick E. Bonney, R. A. C.; Harry B. Henderson, M. 3d V.; Abel A. Hanson, M. 2d V.; Daniel G. Bailey, M. 1st V.; Ivis L. Atwood, steward; Gustavus A. Younggreen, sentinel.

Membership on May 18, 1908, one hundred and thirteen.

Stated convocations are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. The first stated convocation in June is the annual convocation.

PAXTON LODGE, NO. 418, I. O. O. F.

Paxton Lodge, No. 418, I. O. O. F., was instituted at Paxton, Illinois, November 17, 1892, with nine charter members, as follows:

W. T. Troughton, P. G., N. Younggreen, J. F. Heritage, Arthur Dillon, T. W. Talley, R. S. Hall, P. G., F. B. Fagerberg, N. E. Stevens and E. B. Pitney.

First officers: R. S. Hall, N. G., E. B. Pitney, secretary; W. T. Troughton, V. G.

The present membership consists of 182 members.

Present officers: John A. Swanson, N. G.; W. E. Carrington, V. G.; W. W. Reser, secretary.

R. S. HALL ENCAMPMENT, NO. 172, OF I. O. O. F.

R. S. Hall Encampment, No. 172, of I. O. O. F., was instituted at Paxton, Illinois, November 15, 1904, by Gustaf J. Johnson, with thirty-three charter members.

First officers: C. A. Brooks, C. P.; C. F. Graham, H. P.; C. F. Lund, S. W.; O. W. Linstrom, scribe; Frank Corbett, treasurer.

The present membership is one hundred and forty members.

Present officers: O. E. Nelson, C. P.; W. G. T. Baker, S. W.; W. W. Reser, scribe; Alfred Meis, treasurer; W. D. Wimer, H. P.; A. T. Carlson, J. W.

PAXTON CAMP, NO. 259, M. W. A.

Paxton Camp, No. 259, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized October 27, 1886.

First officers: Consul, M. H. Cloud; worthy adviser, W. H. Hunter; clerk, E. N. Stevens; banker, A. Coomes; escort, J. W. Reed; watchman, W. Hopkins; sentry, C. F. Morgan.

Managers: S. M. Wylie; A. Dillon.

Present officers: Consul, O. J. Bainum; worthy adviser, C. O. Stone; clerk, M. Dorsey; banker, S. A. Hancock; escort, Orville A. Archer; watchman, Elmer Rodeen; sentry, George Laxton.

Managers: C. A. Nordgren; John Newman; E. M. Grayson.

Physicians: S. M. Wylie, E. E. Hester, S. S. Fuller, S. A. Lundgren.

Four hundred and twelve beneficial, and two social members.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

In October, 1894, Mayor C. E. Beach, then a young, inexperienced lawyer, who had recently moved to Paxton, finding that there was no lodge of Knights of Pythias in the city, and being a member himself, secured a dispensation of the grand lodge to secure names for the charter for a lodge at Paxton. A sufficient number of names was secured, some thirty odd, and Patton Lodge, No. 498, K. P., was organized and instituted on December 12, 1894, by Samuel L. Harnit, of Gibson City, acting district deputy grand chancellor.

This lodge has had, since its institution, a steady, healthy growth, and it ranks now number the flower of the young manhood of Paxton and vicinity. Its past chancellors are as follows: C. E. Beach, J. H. Flora, M. E. Hunt, F. F. Newlin, W. L. Walton, D. B. Steward, A. W. Gylander, C. E. Lewis, L. A. Crum, R. J. Atwood, J. W. McKown, E. M. Grayson, A. C. Wascher, Theodore Anderson, C. S. Schneider, S. W. Stout, and E. M. Grayson has been again elected and is now chancellor commander of the lodge; F. F. Newlin, vice chancellor; H. E. Duffield, keeper of records and seals; V. E. Johnson, master of finance; Vennum Lateer, master of exchequer; Adolph Fager, mas-

ter at arms; O. J. Bainum, prelate; John Risser, inner guard, Edward Englund, outer guard. The trustees are D. B. Steward, A. T. Flora and C. S. Schneider. Grand representative, D. B. Steward.

This lodge is now the pride of Paxton in the matter of civic society. In conjunction with the lodge proper, it has a Uniform or Lily Rank Company, officered by William Risser, captain; C. S. Schneider, first lieutenant; Ray Flora, second lieutenant, and other non-commissioned officers. C. E. Beach of this company, is on the staff of Colonel Bertoni, of Bloomington, with the rank of first lieutenant.

The subordinate or lodge proper is noted all over the grand domain of Illinois as having one of the best rank teams for all three ranks, and is called to various towns of central location throughout the domain to confer the ranks, where lodges of other towns can congregate and see the work.

Its members, as such, were important factors in the retaining of the county seat at Paxton, during the county seat fight in 1906, and are always in the van of everything progressive.

Paxton is also honored by the societies of Yeomen of America, Court of Honor, Independent Order of Red Men and Royal Neighbors of America.

FORD COUNTY CHAUTAUQUA.

The Ford County Chautauqua is a permanent institution and the meetings thus far held have been eminently successful.

PATTON TOWNSHIP.

When this county was a part of Vermilion, it was called Prairie City township, which was organized from Middlefork township, February 16, 1856. This name was changed to Patton, September 15, 1857, on account of there being another Prairie City township in the state. In 1858, Drummer Grove township was organized, or set off from Patton, and included all of the territory in this county lying west of range 9 east, and in March, 1859, all of the Pan Handle was organized from Patton and called Stockton township. Patton township derived its name from Judge David H. Patton, its first supervisor and the first county judge of Ford county.

In 1863, Button was set off from Patton, and in 1867 Wall was organized out of Patton township. This is the largest township in the county, being six miles north and south, and ten miles east and west.

The Middle fork of the South Vermilion river enters the township in the northwest corner, and flows diagonally across it, passing out into Button near the southeast corner of the township. Along the line of this stream in this township is found about all of the timber there is in the county. At Ten Mile Grove the earliest settlers first located.

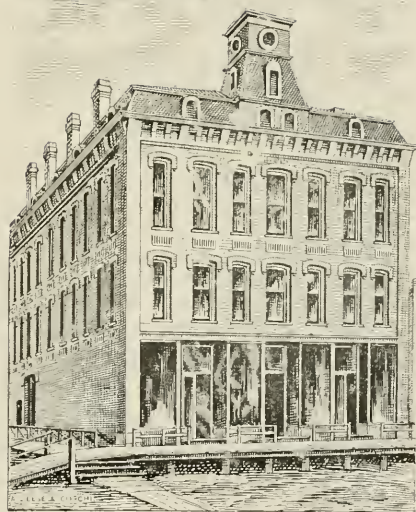
Two railroads cross this township—the Lake Erie & Western running east and west, and the Illinois Central north and south.

The southwest part of the township is settled principally by Swedes. They have a Lutheran church on the east side of section 30, which was constructed in 1872 by C. M. Johnson. This part of the township is familiarly known as Farmersville.

It is extremely difficult at this time to ascertain with any degree of certainty who the first settler was or when he came, but among the earliest were John Cooder, who entered the farm owned by William J. Trickel; Joseph Coontz, who entered the farm owned by Frank Meharry; David H. Patton, who settled on section 14, in 1849; a Mr. Dunbar, who built the house owned by B. Q. Cherry, about 1850; Daniel C. Stoner, who entered the old homestead for his son, J. F. Stoner, in 1850; Daniel C. Stoner became a resident in 1851, and was the first treasurer of Ford county; John Kitchen; William Hackworth; E. Hagin; David Crandall; John Cook; a Mr. Edwards; a Mr. Granger; William Newlin; James Hock; J. D. Hall and son Henry C.; R. R. Murdock; the Day family; William Blanchard; William and Stacey Daniels; the Stites family; J. P. Middlecoff; and Dr. Carpenter. These families came before 1857. During 1858-59, Henry Barnhouse, William Perdue, Dr. L. B. Farrar, William Grayson, Frank Meharry, Edward L. Gill, William Goodrich, the Hanley family, Robert Blackstock, A. McElroy and a Mr. Tabor moved into the township. Remembrance Clark moved into Patton in 1860. He came from Maine. John B. Shaw and J. C. Dunham came in 1861. George Fuoss came out here from Ohio and entered the school section.

There are many Swede settlers in Patton who came here about 1863 and later, and among the earliest may be mentioned C. M. Johnson, Peter Larson, Peter Hanson, John Nelson, C. F. Carlson, A. M. Hanson, E. Collins, N. P. Nelson, William Holmes, Ola Nelson, John Seogg, Gus Larson, C. A. Ostram, Peter Peterson, Andrew Nelson, J. P. Youngdahl, Swan Olson, Nels Olson, J. W. Swanson, John Telander, C. W. Lindstrom, C. and J. P. Swanson, and Peter Lundburg.

It is probable that William Trickel kept the first store in this township, if not in the county. The store was located on section 13. A blacksmith



MT. OLIVET COMMANDERY BUILDING, PAXTON

shop was started at Ten Mile Grove by C. J. Buchner, who afterward moved to Paxton and built a shop near the railroad.

The first school in this township was a log house at Ten Mile Grove, and Judge Patton was the first teacher. A Miss Lewis came from LaFayette and taught the school after the Judge finished teaching.

The following sketches are of some of the oldest settlers and business men who were and are living in Patton township:

J. D. HALL was born in Ross county, Ohio, April 10, 1821. James Hall, father of J. D. Hall, was a native of Maryland, and died in Vinton county, Ohio, 1855. Mr. Hall emigrated from Ohio to Fountain county, Indiana, June, 1839, and to Warren county, Indiana, in 1843. He was married to Eliza Wieman in Fountain county, Indiana, in 1841. She was a native of Virginia. In February, 1852, Mr. Hall emigrated to Ford county, then Vermilion county, where he began to make improvements on section 33. Mr. and Mrs. Hall were blessed with four children. Mr. Hall built the first house north of the river, in what is now Ford county. The postoffice, when he first settled in this county, was eighteen miles from his farm, at Higginsville. Mr. Hall began the grain business with his son, Henry C. Hall, of Paxton, in 1865. He had two hundred and eighty-five acres of excellent land in Patton, which he entered in 1854. He was the second sheriff of Ford county.

DAVID PATTON was born in Clark county, Kentucky, in 1806. His father was a farmer. When quite young he went to Montgomery county, Ohio, then to Preble county, Ohio. He was ambitious to become a lawyer and entered the law office of Oliver H. Smith, in Connersville, Indiana. One of his fellow students was Caleb B. Smith, who afterward was secretary of the interior. From Connersville, Mr. Patton went to LaFayette, Indiana, and began the practice of law, where he remained about twenty years, and then moved to this township in 1849. He first located at Ten Mile Grove. He lived there until 1865 when he came to Paxton. This township was named after Judge Patton. He was the first teacher in this township and the first county judge of the county. He held the office for fifteen years.

THE DAY FAMILY.

The Day family settled on section 13. They comprised Samuel Day, the father; Peggy, the mother; and children—John P., Samuel, N. B. Day, and Cordelia, wife of James Hoek. Samuel Day was a native of Kentucky. He died in 1858. He married Peggy Purviance in 1821. She was also a native of Kentucky. They had nine children. They came from Preble county,

Ohio, to this state. Samuel came here in 1854. He was twice married; first to Susanah Swisher, who died in 1858. He married Miss Jennie Lyons for his second wife in 1861. Samuel Day was the first circuit clerk and recorder of Ford county. John P. Day was born in 1824. He settled in Patton in 1857. In 1845 he married Malinda Swisher, a native of southern Indiana. He served as county treasurer several terms. John P. and Samuel Day were engaged in the real-estate and loan business in Paxton. N. B. Day was born in Preble county, Ohio, and settled in Patton in 1854. The Day family first lived on the farm that was afterward owned by B. Q. Cherry. N. B. Day married Barbara, daughter of Daniel C. Stoner, an old pioneer of this county. Mr. Day is now living in Paxton. Cordelia married Mr. James Hock, who was a resident of Paxton, and one of the oldest settlers of the township. They were married in 1858. Mr. Hock was a farmer and stock-raiser, and came to what is now Ford county from Fountain county, Indiana, in 1852.

THE HANLEY FAMILY.

John Hanley was born in Virginia in 1808. He was brought up a farmer. In 1829, he moved to Greene county, Ohio, where he lived until 1855, principally engaged in stock-raising. He then came to Patton township and established a lumberyard and grain office on the west side of the Illinois Central Railroad. In 1862, he bought a farm at Ten Mile Grove, afterward owned by his son, John M. Hanley, where he lived until 1883, when he came to town and lived with his son, John M. Hanley. He was married to Margaret Alexander, a native of Virginia, in 1828. They had four children: Alexander H. Hanley; William A., who died in 1868 in Xenia, Ohio; Ella M., wife of Alexander McElroy, of Paxton; and John M., who was a leading hardware merchant in this city. The mother, Margaret, died at Ten Mile Grove in 1876. John M. Hanley was educated in Delaware College, Ohio, and was principal of the public schools in Paxton for six years.

THE STITES FAMILY.

Benjamin Stites was born in Pennsylvania, in 1805. In 1832 he settled in Cincinnati and followed his trade of a mason, besides running a stone quarry. He remained in Cincinnati until 1837, when he moved to Vermilion county, Illinois, and lived on a farm near Danville, until 1856, when he came to Paxton and settled on the homestead. Benjamin Stites was twice married. His first wife, a native of Butler county, Ohio, died in 1828. They had two children. His second wife was Susan E. Stuart, of Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio. This union was blessed with six children: Benjamin F., Hannah S., Phebe A., Margaret, William H. and Samuel S.

STACEY DANIELS was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, in 1825. His father, Stacey Daniels, was a native of Pennsylvania, and came to Ohio in 1821. He died in 1825. He married Lattia Carnahan, a native of Pennsylvania. She died in Cincinnati in 1877, at the age of eighty-one years. They had a family of four sons and two daughters that lived to grow up; three others died in infancy. The subject of our sketch left Ohio in October, 1856, and settled in Prospect City in the spring of 1857. He built his house on the site that was occupied by G. J. Shepardson's house on College Hill. He was a mason by trade, and helped build many of the buildings in Paxton. In 1859 he went to California; came back in 1862; and enlisted in the Eighty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry; and was in the service until 1865. Mr. Daniels was thrice married—first to Margaret Rush, in 1849. She was a native of Germany and died in 1859. His second wife was Mary Williams, of Cincinnati, whom he married in July, 1865, and who died in 1867. His third wife was Miss Rebecca Kempton, a native of Hartford, Connecticut. They were married in June, 1868. They had two children: Emma, wife of Ed Field, deceased, of Elliott; and Albert, who engaged in the drug business at Ludlow, Illinois. Mr. Daniels was one of the oldest settlers of Paxton.

JOHN M. HALL was born in Washington county, New York, October, 1810. He was brought up on a farm. In 1832, he went to Fountain county, Indiana. He held various offices of trust, being at one time county recorder. In 1860 he went to Kirksville, Missouri, and engaged in the mercantile business for two years, when he came to Paxton in 1862. In 1838 he married Miss Nancy Nichols, a native of Ohio. They had three children. Mr. Hall was supervisor of Patton township for several years and held the office of police magistrate for many years. He was well liked and enjoyed the confidence of the people.

JOHN P. MIDDLECOFF was born in Wayne county, Indiana, in 1838. His father, Daniel Middlecoff, was a native of Washington county, Maryland, born in 1800. He came to this township in 1861 and died in 1866. John P. came to Illinois in 1857 and settled in Ludlow, Champaign county, and engaged in the general mercantile business. He moved from there to his farm in 1862, where he remained until 1867, when he came to Paxton and engaged in the hardware business. He continued in this for several years. He was elected supervisor of Patton township several times, being chairman of the board. In 1872 he was elected a member of the twenty-eighth general assembly. He was at one time president of the Paxton Brick & Tile Works. In 1863 he was

married to Miss Mary Fox, of Cincinnati, Ohio. To them were born three children, all of whom died. Mr. and Mrs. Middlecoff are still residents of Paxton.

A. CROFT is from Clinton county, Ohio, and settled here in 1877. He owns a fine tract of land of four hundred acres lying adjacent to the city on the west. The buildings and improvements on this farm are of the best.

W. W. BLANCHARD owned a well improved farm in section 29, range 10, about two and a half miles south of the city. Mr. Blanchard was a native of Windham county, Vermont, and settled in this township in 1856.

A. L. CLARK is an extensive landowner, owning about nine hundred acres of excellent land, most of it lying in the southwest part of Button township. Mr. Clark is a native of New Hampshire, settling in this county in 1864. He makes his home in Paxton.

C. M. JOHNSON, farmer, contractor and builder, and a native of Sweden, came to the United States in 1846, and settled in the county in 1863.

DAVID REEP, a native of Butler county, Pennsylvania, settled on section 28 in 1879.

F. MEHARRY came to Patton township from Montgomery county, Indiana, in 1859. He bought a tract of land in section 10, where he erected buildings and improvements equal to any in the county.

WILLIAM TRICKEL came from Piqua county, Ohio, in 1836. He was a farmer and resided on section 27.

PETER HANSON came here from Sweden in 1863.

WILLIAM GRAYSON, a native of England, settled in this township in 1858, on one hundred and sixty acres of land south of Paxton.

W. H. H. LAMS, a native of Ohio, settled in this township in 1870, on section 10.

ROBERT STRONG, a farmer and native of Monroe county, Indiana, settled in Patton in 1865.

PETER ANDERSON, a native of Sweden, came to this township in 1864, settling on section 31.

CHARLES LEEPER, a farmer and native of Bedford county, Tennessee, where he was born in 1816, came to this county in 1869.

ALBERT KEITH, a native of Madison county, New York, settled in this county in 1866. He was at one time mayor of Paxton, and owner of a fine farm in Dix township.

Another large and extensive farmer of Patton is WILLIAM PERDUE, a native of Chester county, Pennsylvania. He came here in 1859. He owns about seven hundred acres of rich farming lands in Patton township. He resides in Paxton.

LIN CORBLY, also owning extensive farm lands, is one of the pioneer settlers of this township. He has for several years resided in Paxton.

C. E. HENDERSON resided at Henderson Station, on the Lake Erie & Western Railroad. He was a native of Loudoun, Virginia. He settled in this township in 1865. He had a beautiful home and a fine farm.

One of the oldest settlers of Patton was JOHN F. STONER, son of Daniel C. Stoner. John F. came here in 1851 and settled on section 9. He was a native of Indiana. His large farm was one of the best in the township.

C. M. TAYLOR, who was principal of Collegiate Institute, was a native of Vermilion county, Indiana, and came to this county in 1878.

J. B. SHAW, cashier of the First National Bank and a native of Grafton county, New Hampshire, came to this county in 1861.

R. BLACKSTOCK was cashier of Ford County Bank. He was a native of Canada West and settled here in 1858.

H. A. KELSO, physician, is a native of Marion county, Indiana, and came here in 1864.

S. M. WYLIE, physician, a native of Coles county, Illinois, settled here in 1869.

J. Y. CAMPBELL, physician, settled here in 1866.

CHARLES H. LANGFORD, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, settled here in 1881 and was engaged in the abstract business.

G. J. SHEPARDSON, mayor, settled here in 1867.

GEORGE GROVE, engaged in the lumber business, is a native of Pennsylvania. He came here in 1875.

P. HANSON, druggist, a native of Denmark, settled here in 1865.

O. W. SWANSON, stock and loans, was born in Sweden and came here in 1865.

GEORGE W. CRUZEN, farmer, a native of Harper's Ferry, Virginia, settled here in 1868.

W. B. TRAVIS, merchant, was born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and came here in 1868.

CHARLES C. PUTT, importer of horses, a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, came here in 1875.

W. M. WILSON, groceries, a native of Monroe county, Indiana, settled here in 1866.

HARPER & COMPANY, dry goods, natives of Washington county, New York, came in 1876.

N. YOUNGGREEN, merchant, native of Sweden, came in 1871.

F. TELANDER, merchant, a native of Sweden, came in 1869.

WILLIAM R. TRICKEL, gunsmith, a native of Knox county, Indiana, settled here in 1836.

R. S. HALL, agent for the Illinois Central Railroad, is a native of Middlesex county, Connecticut.

G. F. SANDBURG, carriage-maker, a native of Sweden, came here in 1868.

E. L. GILL, auctioneer, a native of Jefferson county, Virginia, settled here in 1859.

HENRY PEARSON, contractor, a native of Sweden, came here in 1867.

WHITE BROTHERS, lumber, natives of Washington county, Pennsylvania, came in 1864.

A. C. THOMPSON, banker, a native of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, came here in 1868.

G. E. ABBOTT, agent for the Lake Erie & Western Railroad, a native of McLean county, Illinois, came here in 1878.

G. W. LEEPER, wind-mills, a native of Bureau county, Illinois, came here in 1869.

J. L. LARKIN, restaurant, a native of New York, came here in 1880.

GEORGE SCHLOSSER, grocer, a native of Pennsylvania, came here in 1862.

A. S. HOPKINS, agricultural implements, a native of Onondaga county, New York, came here in 1869.

ANDREW ANDERSON, grocer, a native of Sweden, came here in 1864.

L. H. RODEEN, grocer, a native of Sweden, came here in 1867.

R. CRUZEN, hardware, was born in Harper's Ferry, Virginia, and came here in 1868.

B. F. HILL, flouring mill, a native of Erie county, Pennsylvania, came here in 1863.

GEORGE M. DIXON, barber, a native of Jefferson county, Indiana, came here in 1866.

D. D. DENMAN, builder, native of Montgomery county, Indiana, settled here in 1871.

L. S. HOLDERMAN, a native of Grundy county, Illinois, came here in 1883. He has a farm on section 8. He is now living in Paxton.

The above shows the business in which each one mentioned was engaged in 1884.

DRUMMER TOWNSHIP.

Drummer Grove township was organized and set off from Patton township, September 14, 1858, and comprised all of what now composes the townships of Drummer, Dix, Sullivant and Peach Orchard or all of Ford county lying west of range 9 east, and containing an area of one hundred and eighty square miles.

The township took its name from the little grove called Drummer Grove, which lies about a mile northwest of Gibson, and which was so called in honor of a noted hunting dog named Drummer, that became overheated in a deer chase and died and was buried in the grove. The only authentic history that has been preserved in regard to the life and character of the dog is that he was not a "yaller dog."

In 1864 there must have been some congressional investigation or something discovered derogatory to the character of the dog, for a petition signed by a majority of the voters of the township was presented to the board of supervisors asking to have the name of the township changed to Dix, in honor of General Dix, of New York, which was accordingly done, and the township was known by that name until 1869, when upon the requisite petition being presented to the board of supervisors the territory comprised in towns 23 and south half of 24 north, range 7 east, was set off from Dix and rechristened Drummer Grove, thus dividing the honors of the territory equally between General Dix and the dog.

In 1870 the name being found too long for practical convenience the word "grove" was eliminated from the name by the board of supervisors.

The first settler within the limit of Drummer township was Andrew Jordan, who was a native from Kentucky, where he was born October 28, 1828, and came to Illinois when twenty-one years of age, with a horse, saddle and bridle and fifteen dollars in money. He went to work by the month on a farm in Cass county, where he remained for two years, and then came into this vicinity and bought a small farm near the timber in Champaign county. He lived there a year, then married Miss Amanda Devore, and moved on the

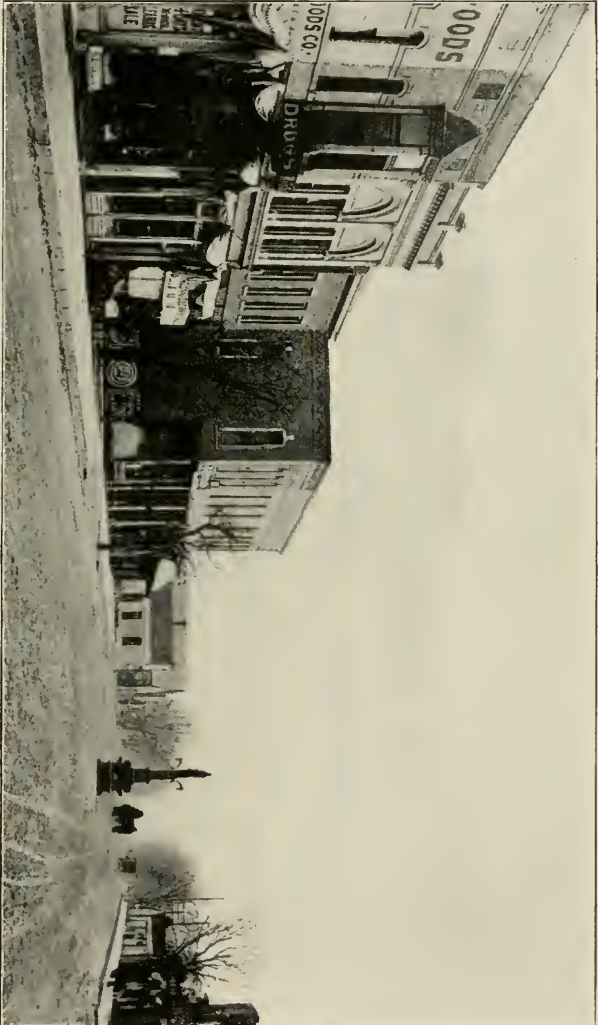
prairie in the fall of 1851. He added tract after tract of land to his farm until he owned eleven hundred acres of excellent land, all lying in one body. When Mr. Jordan moved here, Ford county had not been organized. His only neighbors were wolves and deer, which were exceedingly neighborly in their visits. His nearest milling accommodations were Danville, Illinois, or Covington, Indiana; the nearest blacksmith shop or place to get a plow sharpened was Mahomet, twenty-four miles.

About a year or so after he came here, the town of Pera, now Ludlow, was started, which was for many years his only market, a distance of seventeen miles. Corn was then worth ten cents per bushel and land from three to eight dollars per acre. Mr. Jordan improved all his land, having it thoroughly tiled with tile of his own manufacture, he having established on his farm one of the largest establishments for the manufacture of tile and brick in the county.

The next settler of the township was William Bridges, who came in 1853 and settled on a farm owned by J. A. Rockwood, of Gibson. During the same year, William Jordan, brother of Andrew Jordan, settled in an old house on section 13, afterward owned by Leonard Pierpont. Lindsey Corbly came next and settled on section 25, south of Andrew Jordan, on what is now known as the Weldon farm.

In 1855 Dr. J. E. Davis settled at Drummer Grove, where he pursued farming and the practice of his profession for many years, taking an active part in all the affairs of the county.

The next early settler was Samuel J. LeFevre, who was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, April 16, 1841, and settled with his parents on this farm in the year 1856, being then only fifteen years old. Ford county was not then organized, this territory being a part of Vermilion county, and all called Patton township, with Prospect City, now Paxton, as the only voting place in it. In 1862 Mr. LeFevre enlisted in the Seventy-sixth Illinois Infantry and served until wounded at the battle of Vicksburg in the charge of Fort Blakely, April 9, 1865. His wound rendering him unfit for military service, he was honorably discharged, and returned to his farm again, where he remained until 1872, when he moved to Gibson and engaged in the lumber business. He was almost continually in the discharge of some official trust since the organization of the township, having been school treasurer four years, and trustee six years; member of the village board three years and president of the board one year; supervisor of the township three and a half years; and chairman of the county board two years.



SANGAMON AVENUE, GIBSON CITY.

In the same year, with Mr. LeFevre's family, J. H. Dungan came and settled on the farm adjoining Mr. LeFevre on the south, and alike with his neighbors endured all the hardships incident to that new and wild state of the country. He remained here improving his farm and pursuing the peaceful life of an industrious farmer, until he saw the thriving town of Gibson springing up on the prairie near him, and then moved into town and engaged in the grain business, and was one of the most energetic men of the town.

Thomas Stephens came next and settled in the south part of the township, turning his attention principally to cattle-raising, accumulating by successive purchases a large tract of land on the Sangamon. He followed the business of stock-raising and farming until too old and feeble to manage his farm himself, when he divided it among his children and settled down with them to spend the remainder of his days in a quiet, peaceful way, freed from the care and anxiety of any kind of business.

Among other settlers who followed in a short time were Asa Canterbury, Caleb McKeever, B. H. McClure and family, John Pagel, William Reighley, Thomas Holloway and Lewis Weekman.

The first school taught in the township was at the residence of Dr. J. E. Davis, during the winter of 1863, taught by Miranda Holloway. In 1866 Drummer Grove schoolhouse was built, and a school taught there by Mary Ann George. Among other pioneer teachers of Drummer were Miss Arabella Davis, wife of Weaver White; A. Forbes Irwin, of Peoria, and Weaver White.

The soil of Drummer township is the best in the county, although when surveyed by the government a great portion of it was returned as swamp land. Yet, by the system of drainage which has been regularly and steadily followed during the past fifty-four years, its value and productiveness cannot be excelled in the county.

GIBSON CITY.

Jonathan B. Lott was born at Graysville, Ohio, February 14, 1840. He came to Illinois when only eight years old, and located with his parents at Danvers, McLean county. His father died when he was fourteen, and he being the oldest son at home, took charge of the family. When the war broke out, he enlisted in Company C, Thirty-third Illinois Infantry, and served three years; then reenlisted as a veteran, remaining until the close of the war, when he was discharged on account of wounds. He was twice wounded at the bat-

tle of Spanish Fort, Louisiana. On his discharge from the army he returned to McLean county and entered Wesleyan University, where he remained one year.

January 1, 1867, he was united in marriage with Margaret A. Gibson, and in 1869 purchased from Jesse Whitehead, of Chicago, the town site of Gibson, and in February, 1869, built his house here. Mr. Lott, by his energy and personal influence, secured such changes in the surveys of the different railroads that brought about their junction at the present location of Gibson. In 1870 he secured the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield, now Springfield Branch of the Illinois Central. The Lake Erie & Western was surveyed three miles south of this place, and the Chicago & Paducah, now Wabash, was projected and surveyed through Saybrook, but Mr. Lott succeeded in getting them to pass through this town.

Mr. Lott departed this life September 19, 1879. The town was named after his widow.

Gibson owes its existence and prosperity to the untiring zeal and energy of J. B. Lott. The original town of Gibson was platted and laid out by J. B. Lott, the proprietor, on November 1, 1870, and was called Gibson in obedience to the Scriptural injunction, "Remember Lot's wife," Mrs. Lott's maiden name being Gibson.

On making application for a postoffice of the same name, the department added the word "city" on account of the similarity of the name with Gilson, Illinois; hence the name of the town as platted is Gibson, and the postoffice is Gibson City.

The first inhabitants of the town were J. B. Lott and wife.

The first commercial business done in the town was commenced by William Moyer, December 1, 1870. He opened a grain office, which business he followed for a number of years. Commencing with a very moderate capital, by attention to his business and the exercise of superior judgment and discretion in its management, he accumulated a fortune, which caused him to be recognized as the wealthiest man in Gibson.

Wilson Brothers next opened a general store in January, 1871, on the corner south of the opera hall. Next came H. J. Ring in the same month, and in April following his partner, J. H. Collier, and T. D. Spalding. The firm of Ring & Collier opened a hardware store, and Mr. Spalding operated a lumberyard near the crossing of the railroads. About the same time came W. D. Worrell, J. F. Hicks, James Garbett, J. E. Lewis and others followed in such rapid succession that to particularize would be very difficult.

The first single lady who settled in Gibson was Miss Mary Thompson, a milliner. The first school in the town was taught by Miss Caroline Williams, and was taught in a public hall.

The first preaching was conducted by Rev. Schlosser, of Paxton, in the Illinois Central depot.

Mr. C. H. Yeomans was the first lawyer; Dr. Anderson was the first physician; J. E. Cruzen was the first postmaster, and M. T. Burwell the first banker.

The first railroad through Gibson was the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield, now operated by the Illinois Central, which was built in 1871, and was followed the same year by the Lake Erie & Western, but no regular trains were run until the following spring. The Chicago & Paducah, now the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific, was built in 1874.

The first church edifice was erected by the Methodist denomination, and was followed by the Cumberland Presbyterian, the First Presbyterian, United Brethren and Catholics. There are quite a number of colored people in Gibson, who have built a church called the African Methodist Church.

The first wedding in the place was that of Bruce McCormick and Miss Hattie Gibson, a sister of Mrs. J. B. Lott.

The first death was that of a jeweler named Angel, which occurred in 1872, who committed suicide by cutting his throat in the rear of the New York store.

The village was incorporated in 1872, with T. D. Spalding, J. H. Collier, S. J. LeFevre, Bruce McCormick and W. T. Kerr as trustees.

In the year 1874 the school accommodations being entirely inadequate to the wants of the rapidly increasing population of the town, the thoroughgoing enterprise of the citizens was shown in the erection of what was the finest public school building in the county. It is a two-story brick, with a full story basement, sixty by sixty, all finely furnished, and heated by furnace, with the most approved plan of ventilation. There are five departments in the building, with a capacity for accommodating three hundred pupils. The cost of this building was twelve thousand dollars. In 1882, this becoming too crowded for effective work, another building, forty by sixty, was erected at a cost of five thousand dollars, with a capacity for one hundred scholars.

January 29, 1883, the town was visited by a destructive fire, which swept away in the course of a few hours about fifty thousand dollars worth of property, not more than one-fourth of which was covered by insurance.

Here again the enterprising spirit of the citizens evinced itself, for in less than a month from the day of the fire, workmen were busy preparing the burnt

district for rebuilding. In six months' time there was erected twelve elegant brick stores (all two stories high, except two) from eighty to one hundred feet in length, all furnished with large plate glass fronts, as fine as are to be found in any city in the state outside of Chicago. The improvements made during those six months cost, in the aggregate, nearly eighty thousand dollars. Among them, and worthy of mention, is M. T. Burwell's opera hall, on the second floor of the block erected by M. T. Burwell; is fifty by one hundred feet, with eighteen foot ceiling, and a self-supporting truss roof, leaving no columns or central supports to mar its beauty or obstruct the view. The stage scenery is, probably, as elaborate and complete as is found in any city in the state, except Chicago. The building—hall, stage and footlights—is lighted by gas.

The following is a brief mention of some of the leading business men and prominent farmers who have lived and are still living in Drummer township:

LEONARD PIERPONT was born in Litchfield county, Connecticut, October 28, 1819. He came to Illinois in 1858, and settled in this township. He was a good farmer, an honest, industrious citizen and treasurer of Ford county for four years. He died in April, 1874, leaving a large family. Three of his sons were killed in the war.

WILLIAM H. GUTHRIE was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, in 1832. He settled in Drummer township in 1865. He purchased from time to time, until he owned a fine farm of nine hundred and sixty acres. He was married in 1868 to Miss Jennie Stewart. They had five children.

JAMES B. FOLEY is a native of Adams county, Ohio, where he was born in 1847, and came to Putnam county, Illinois, with his parents when he was three years old. He lived there twenty-four years; then settled in this township on section 20. He was married to Miss Olive L. Skeel, December 24, 1874.

There is hardly a place in the southern part of Drummer that surpasses the fine home of Joseph T. Roberts, on section 35, coming from Tazewell county, Illinois. He was married in 1857 to Mary C. Bosserman, a native of De Witt county, Illinois.

NATHAN L. SKEEL was born in Putnam county, Illinois, August 19, 1848. He lived there until about twenty-four years of age, assisting his father on a farm, when he settled in this township. In 1873, he married Mary Wallace.

WILLARD PROCTOR was born in Rutland, Vermont, in 1827, where he lived for about twenty-five years, then moved to Illinois. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Regiment, and served in the

war until its close. He was married, March, 1847, to Miss Sarah A. Hewitt, a native of Rutland, Vermont.

ALBERT GILMORE was born in Harrison county, Ohio, in 1841. In 1861, he came here and bought sixteen hundred acres of land. In 1880, he married Miss Elizabeth A. Boundy, of Peoria county, Illinois. She was born in 1858.

ROBERT A. McCLURE was born in McLean county in 1843. He lived there until 1867, when he came to this township. In 1862, he enlisted in the Ninety-fourth Illinois Regiment, and was in the service until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged and returned home. He was married in 1865 to Miss Ann McLaughlin.

AUSTIN CRABBS was born in Richland county, Ohio, January 8, 1838. His father, David Crabbs, was a native of Pennsylvania, and removed to Indiana in 1852, where he departed this life in August, 1854. Mr. Crabbs came to Illinois in 1873, and located at Gibson. He engaged in the mercantile trade. Mr. Crabbs served in the civil war for three years, being captain of Company C, Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteers. He erected two handsome buildings in the Center block. He was married to Miss Catharine Yeiter in Decatur county, Indiana, March 3, 1864.

Gibson also has a Christian church, a Swedish Lutheran and Swedish Mission church.

The opera house was built in 1884 by N. T. Burwell.

A mile of brick paving on Main street was laid in 1906, at a cost of forty thousand dollars.

The waterworks was built in 1895. The water, of a fine quality, is obtained from wells and pumped into a tower and reservoir. One pump has a capacity of one million five hundred thousand gallons every twenty-four hours. Cost of plant thirty thousand dollars.

The city hall was built in 1906. Lot and building cost eleven thousand dollars.

Gibson has three school buildings. A new one was erected in 1888, at a cost of ten thousand dollars.

Gibson City has two hotels: the New Gibson and the Central. The New Gibson was built in 1900, by W. W. Johnston. Cost twenty thousand dollars.

Gibson's new Presbyterian church edifice was erected in 1905. It is of brick and stone, and the cost was twenty thousand dollars.

The Christian church building was erected in 1891, at an expense of ten thousand dollars.

The physicians now practicing in Gibson City are: F. O. Culter, D. Y. Shamel, F. B. Lovell, W. R. Cothorn, G. A. Wash, J. C. Cunningham, H. D. Rothgeb.

The veterans of the Civil war have at Gibson City Lott Post, No. 73, G. A. R.

Gibson City has an improvement club, woman's club, recreation club. It also maintains, in prosperous condition, Masonic, I. O. O. F., K. of P., M. W. A., and Court of Honor lodges, not forgetting the Rebekahs, Rathbone Sisters, Royal Neighbors and others.

The present mayor is C. W. Knapp; clerk, W. A. Davidson; attorney, L. A. Cranston.

BANKS OF GIBSON CITY.

The Farmers and Merchants' Bank was established in 1885 by H. C. McClure and his sons, Robert A., Herman W., and George L., as a private concern. Capital, ten thousand dollars. W. J. Stone, now president of the bank, came into the concern April 1, 1907. The other proprietors of the bank are members of the McClure estate. Robert A. McClure died in 1906. The present officers of the bank are as follows: President, W. J. Stone; vice president, Mrs. Robert A. McClure; cashier, J. C. McClure; assistant cashier, W. A. Davidson.

The First National Bank is the culmination of a private bank organized in 1872 by N. T. Burwell. About 1876 Mr. Burwell took into partnership W. J. Wilson, and the style name of the firm became Burwell & Wilson, and so continued until 1880. The concern was reorganized in the latter year, by the admission of E. O. Leffel, and the firm name became Burwell, Leffel & Company.

In 1882, a further reorganization took place when Evan Mattinson and Matthew Mattinson, his father, and Washington Wilson, father of W. J. Wilson, became partners, and the banking firm took the name of Mattinson, Wilson & Company. April 1, 1906, Messrs. Burwell and Leffel retiring, a charter establishing the First National Bank was secured. Evan Mattinson became the first president; W. H. Simms, vice president; E. L. Rockwood, cashier; Bryson Strauss, assistant cashier. Capital and surplus, one hundred thousand dollars.

Gibson City has three railroads: The Illinois Central, Wabash and Lake Erie & Western.

BUTTON TOWNSHIP.

Button township is bounded on the north by Iroquois county; on the east by Vermilion county; on the south by Champaign county, and on the west by Patton township. It is situated in the extreme southeast corner of the county, lying in three different ranges and two different meridians. It is six miles north to south, and varying from five to six miles east and west. This township is favorably located; settled with thrifty, industrious people, who are mostly well-to-do farmers, with improvements and buildings suitable and adapted to the day and age. This township was set off from Patton and organized in December, 1864, and derived its name from James Porter Button, its first supervisor.

Among the early settlers of Button township were Edward Pyles, John Rails (two squatters, Cook and White), Joshua Trickel, Robert Trickel, W. J. and W. R. Trickel, William and Samuel Swinford, O. H. Campbell, Story Button, David Patton, Matthew Elliott, Bennett Lucas, Jacob Tanner, John Dopps, Milton Strayer, Harmon Strayer, J. B. Strayer, Joseph Harris, William Walker, J. H. Flagg, A. F. Flagg, E. Wait, Eli Dopps, Spencer Cushing, Daniel Stamps, William McClintock, David Saunders, William Phebus, Daniel Moudy, William Montgomery, A. Lance.

"Trickel's Grove" is beyond a doubt the first settled locality in Button township and in Ford county. A few squatters, who never became permanent settlers, built log houses and lived in or near the grove prior to 1835. In 1836, two brothers, Joshua and Robert Trickel, located at the grove which was then a part of Vermilion county, and bought out these squatters' claims, and we have every reason to believe the Trickels were the first permanent settlers of what is now Ford county, except it might have been Andrew Sprouls, who occupied for a short time what was afterward the W. Walker farm.

The first schoolhouse built in Button township was of logs, and located on the farm owned by John Rails near Trickel's Grove. This farm was entered by Edward Pyles; afterward owned by William Swinford, and later by A. L. Clark.

The first schoolhouse built north of the timber on the prairie was located on section 16, near the Vermilion county line, on the farm which was later owned by A. H. Morrison.

The first school taught in the township was by Simon Mitchell, in a cabin belonging to Jacob Tanner.

CLARENCE.

Clarence postoffice (Kirk's Station, Lake Erie & Western Railroad) is a thriving village and grain center, located on sections 7 and 8, on the farms of W. T. Morrison and S. I. Hutchison. It was surveyed and laid out by Robert F. Whitham in August, 1878. The village is surrounded by a fine farming country.

The following are sketches of the early settlers and other prominent men who lived and are yet living in Button township:

JAMES PORTER BUTTON (deceased) was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky, January 29, 1822. He came to Ford county in 1852. Mr. Button was married to Miss Sarah R. Hock, in Fountain county, Indiana, February 8, 1845. They have had a family of eight children. Mr. Button entered land in section 25, town 23, range 10, in the township which now bears his name. Mr. Button filled many positions of trust with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. He was the treasurer of Ford county at the time of his death, which occurred at Paxton March 22, 1866.

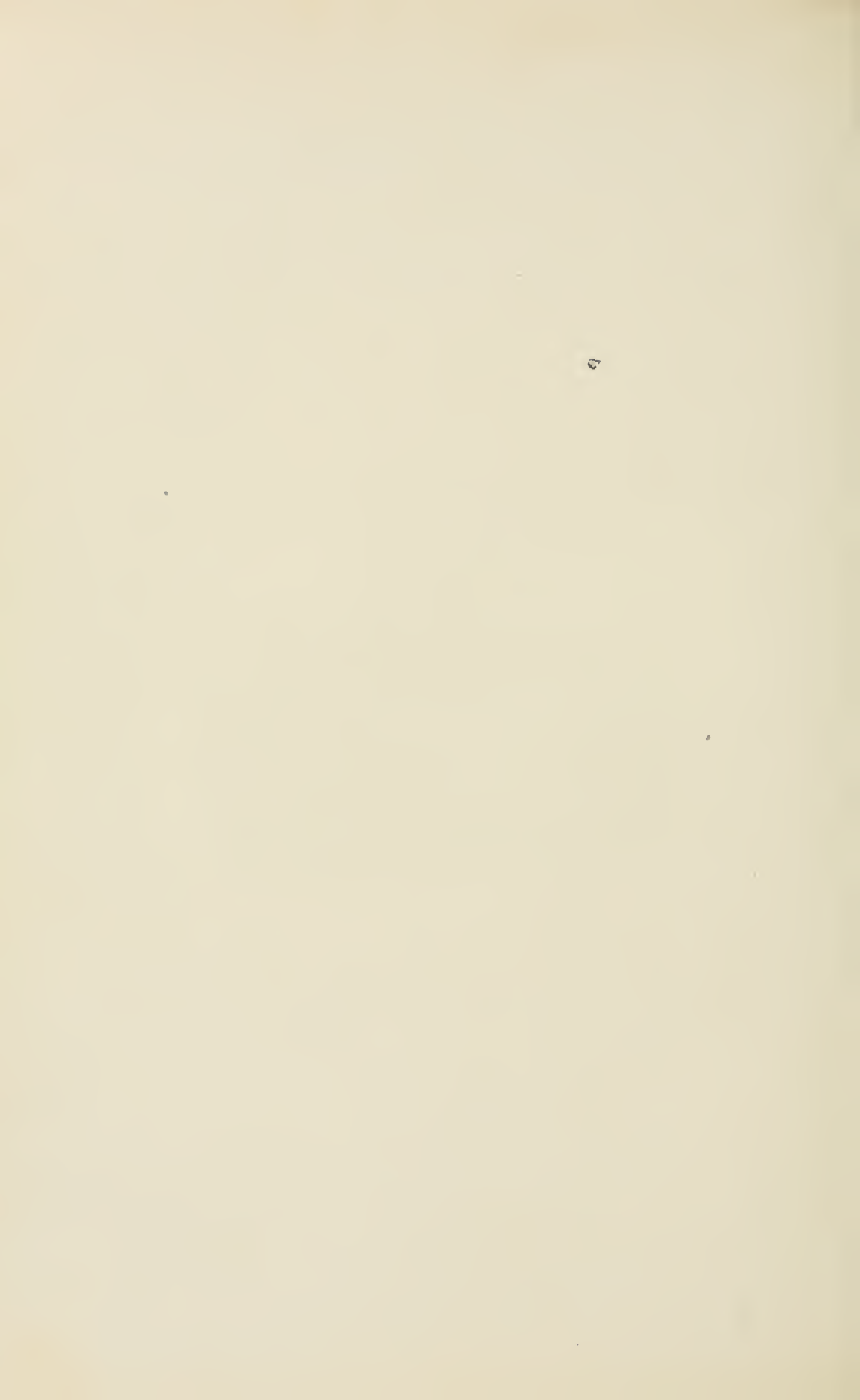
DAVID PATTON (deceased) was born in Ross county, Ohio, December 20, 1815. Thomas Patton, the father of David, emigrated to Vigo or Parke counties, Indiana, when David was about three years old. He remained there only a few years. In 1823 the family moved to Fountain county, Indiana, where Thomas Patton died. December 10, 1844, David was married to Miss Jane Cade, daughter of William Cade, who settled in Fountain county in 1823. November 2, 1854, David Patton came to Illinois and settled in Button township, then in Vermilion county. Here he resided until his death, February 29, 1880. He entered four hundred and eighty acres of choice land in section 23, range 14 west, in Button township. There were eight children. The widow is still living on the old homestead.

MATTHEW ELLIOTT (deceased) was born March 4, 1799, in the District of Columbia. When about twenty-one years old, he came west to Ohio, where he remained until the spring of 1850; then came to Ford county, Illinois (then Vermilion) and entered land in the southeast quarter of section 25, and moved his family here from Ohio in the spring of 1852. He purchased the home place of Benjamin Stites, who entered the land and made the first improvements in Button township. Mr. Elliott died August 23, 1881. They had a family of five children.

JOSHUA TRICKEL (deceased) was born August 5, 1788, in Virginia. Mary Trickel, his wife, was born February 8, 1800. William Trickel, son of Joshua



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CLARENCE, ILL.



Trickel, was born in Piqua county, Ohio, October 17, 1820, and came to Illinois with his parents when only seven years old. His father settled at Butler's Point, in Vermilion county, until they took up their residence in Ford county. Elizabeth, wife of William Trickel, was born in Lawrence county, Indiana, July 29, 1838. Her father, Alexander Henry, was an old settler of Iroquois county, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Trickel were married January 7, 1857.

DAVID SAUNDERS was the first to buy land in school section 16, afterward owned and improved by William Phebus.

OBADIAH LENEVE was born in Halifax county, Virginia, December 30, 1801. Samuel Leneve, father of the subject of this sketch, was a native of France, and emigrated to America with his brother John. They came to this country at the time La Fayette and his troops came over to assist the Americans in their strife with England for the independence of the colonies. John Leneve, grandfather of Obadiah, was one of the soldiers who came over with General La Fayette; he died in Virginia. Samuel, the father of Obadiah, was about three years old when he landed on American soil. They settled in Virginia near the old Halifax courthouse; here he grew to manhood and married Katie Arrington, a native of that place. About 1806 he emigrated to Tennessee, where he remained about one year; then journeyed on to Kentucky and settled in Mercer county; there he remained eight years; then moved to Nelson county; then again moved to Sullivan county, Indiana, and settled at Shakers Prairie. Here he remained only a year, when he made his last move to Lawrence county, Illinois, and resided until his death in the spring of 1831. Obadiah was married in Lawrence county, Illinois, to Polly Lemons, a native of Tennessee. She died in May, 1878. They located in Vermilion county in 1824, in the Newell settlement, in the northeastern part of the county. They had a family of eight children. Mr. Leneve was one of the hard working and successful pioneers of Vermilion and Ford counties. Mrs. Moudy (deceased) first wife of Daniel Moudy, one of the prominent farmers of this county, was a daughter of this old pioneer. Mr. Leneve died in Paxton, February 4, 1884, at the home of one of his nephews.

PETER MOUDY was a native of Virginia, where he was born August 1, 1804, but was raised in Butler county, Ohio, where his father moved when he was an infant. Here he remained until 1835. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Herring, daughter of George Herring, December 25, 1825. She was a native of Pennsylvania, but left there when about five years old and was raised in Butler county, Ohio, until 1835, when they emigrated to Western Indiana and located in the Wabash valley. In Vermilion county, Indiana, Daniel

Moudy, son of our subject, was born February 4, 1836. Peter Moudy had a family of twelve children. He located in Vermilion county, Illinois, in the spring of 1855, where he resided until his death, May 7, 1875. Daniel Moudy is among the early settlers of Button township, coming to his farm place in 1859, where he commenced making improvements by breaking prairie with oxen. Very few settlers had located north of the timber at that time. Mr. Moudy has owned several fine farms in this township, comprising seven hundred and eighty acres in all. He has at all times been one of the leading and progressive farmers and stock-raisers of Ford county. The first wife of Mr. Moudy was a daughter of Obadiah Leneve, an old pioneer of Vermilion county, Illinois. She died January 31, 1879. Henrietta, his second wife, is a daughter of O. H. Campbell, an early settler of Ford county.

OBADIAH H. CAMPBELL was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, December 17, 1811. He left that state and came to Indiana in 1855; remained there till the spring of 1856, when he located at Trickel's Grove, buying out the heirs of Joshua Trickel. Mr. Campbell was one of the oldest living settlers of Button township, and owned one of the very first settled places in Ford county, owning altogether three hundred and seventy-three acres. His father, James Campbell, was born in New Jersey, and emigrated to Pennsylvania when fifteen years old. He died there at an advanced age. Mrs O. H. Campbell (deceased) was a native of Pennsylvania. She was born in 1817 and died on the 2d of February, 1867. They had a family of nine children.

JACOB STRAYER, father of Milton and Harmon Strayer, was born in Berkeley county, Virginia, in 1796; he came to Ford county in 1854, and lived here until he died January 3, 1879. Elizabeth, his wife, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, August 1, 1803. She died June 21, 1883.

MILTON STRAYER was born in Fountain county, Indiana. In September, 1851, he moved to Ford county on the line of Champaign county, and entered the land where La Fayette Patton lived. In 1854, Mr. Strayer moved onto his farm on section 25, in the narrow range of sections in this township, which land he entered in 1853. He was married, August 31, 1851, to Miss Sarah Jane Middlebrook, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of William Middlebrook, who located in Fountain county, Indiana, about 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Strayer have had ten children.

HARMON STRAYER, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Strayer, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, September 20, 1820. He came with his parents to Fountain county, Indiana, in 1824. He came here in the fall of 1851. In 1858

he assessed all the lands in Ford county, then Patton township, Vermilion county. In 1858, he married Miss Martha McClure, daughter of Samuel McClure, an early settler of Cass county, Indiana. She was born in Ohio. They had a family of four children.

JOSEPH HARRIS was born in Germany, March 25, 1838. When nineteen years old he came to America, and in 1857, located in Ford county. In 1860 he was united in marriage with Miss Josephine Strayer, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Strayer. She was born in Fountain county, Indiana. They had nine children. Mr. Harris, for five years, worked by the month. In 1865, he bought land of the Illinois Central Railroad Company.

J. C. KIRKPATRICK was born in Adams county, Ohio. He came to Button township in 1861, settling on section 17. Mr. Kirkpatrick was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. White, of Oak Grove, McLean county. They had eight children. Several years ago he engaged in the hardware business in Clarence; he also dealt in grain, coal, lumber and agricultural implements.

WILLIAM A. HUTCHISON was born in Wayne county, Ohio. He came to Ford county in 1868. He was married to Miss Margaret Ghormley, of Ohio. His father, Samuel Hutchison, helped lay out the village of Clarence. The subject of our sketch was postmaster of Clarence and also ran a grocery store.

DAVID A. FREDERICK was born in Middlesex county, Massachusetts, and came to Ford county in 1857.

HUGH McCORMICK was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. He came to Ford county in April, 1866, settling on section 9.

WILLIAM PHEBUS was born in Fountain county, Indiana, and settled in Ford county in 1865.

WILLIAM T. PATTON, a son of David Patton, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, and came to Button township in 1854, locating on section 33.

JAMES H. and ARTHUR F. FLAGG, brothers, natives of the state of Maine. James H. came west and settled in Button township in 1859. Arthur F. came to this township in 1861.

MITCHEL A. KARR, son of John Karr, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, and came west to Illinois and settled in Button with his father in 1864.

WILLIAM T. MORRISON was a native of Adams county, Ohio, and settled in this township in 1868. He lived closed to the village of Clarence, in one of the finest houses in Button township.

ALBERT J. POOL, a native of La Salle county, Illinois, settled in Button township in 1873.

WILLIAM MONTGOMERY, a native of Shelby county, Indiana, settled in Ford county in 1857.

WILLIAM WALKER, a native of Wayne county, Indiana. He settled in this county in 1859.

J. E. WALKER, or ELMER WALKER, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, in 1858, and that year came with his parents to this township.

SAMUEL PARSONS, a native of England, settled in this township in 1869, owning a farm of one hundred and sixty acres.

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERESTING VOLUME, ENTITLED
 "REMEMBRANCES OF A PIONEER," PUBLISHED IN BOOK FORM IN
 1904, BY MRS JANE PATTON, WHO IS STILL LIVING ON THE
 OLD HOMESTEAD IN BUTTON TOWNSHIP.

In 1884, my husband and I moved to Vermilion county, Illinois. We bid farewell to the home of our childhood and the homes that we had lived in and the good people that had lived there. Some of them live there yet, and I love to visit those old scenes of my young days. How sweet is their memory after so many years spent away from them!

The day we loaded our wagons to leave for Illinois, we had a house and yard full of people. They were so glad to get us away that they all wanted to help us start. They made us a barrel of kraut, and loaded five wagons, and about sundown we came across the creek to one of the places that I never get tired of going to, that was my Aunt Jane Campbell's and Uncle Samuel and Joseph Campbell's and spent the night. It was a hard trial to leave all the relatives and neighbors behind,—Mrs. Harshbarger, Mrs. Dice, Mrs. Greenley, and many more that had been good to me in so many ways, besides all the relatives, but we had decided to come, and I think it was for the best that we did.

We were two days on the road. We brought two cows, four horses, chickens and turkeys. We stayed at Mr. Joseph Delay's, six or seven miles from the State line city, and ate dinner at Marysville, what is Potomac now. We got to our future home in the afternoon, in time to unload our goods and put up four beds and the cook stove. These were essential things that night, for there were five men came with us besides our own family; they came to drive the teams and have a good time, and they had it. We had brought lots of things cooked, and had a turkey for the first meal in our new home, and we all enjoyed our supper that evening.

That was Thursday evening, and all stayed with us until Monday morning, and then started for home. They had all seen those black prairies, but before they started for home they visited the deep cut prairie, Prospect City, what was afterward Paxton, but the railroad was the object in view. None of them had ever seen a railroad, as far as I know. I know I had not. There was only one house in Paxton, or what is Paxton now. The Mr. Stites' family was there, and the trains stopped when needed.

The boys wanted to get something to take home with them, and found some beans for sale, and bought them to take home. They wanted to kill a deer to take home, but did not get to do that, but got some venison some place, I think, but am not sure of that. Deer were plenty then, for you could see them almost every morning going from the timber out on the prairie, but they could see you about as soon as you would see them.

Mr. Patton went back to Indiana in December, and took the boys back there to go to school. There was no school here that winter.

The Illinois Central commenced to run trains the spring that we came here; in the fall there was no railroad at Danville, Illinois. Then men came to our house from Covington and the country around there more than once to go to Loda or Paxton and take the train to Chicago.

I forgot to tell the names of the ones who came with us when we moved to this country—Obidah Marlatt, long since dead, my uncle, Samuel Campbell, Joseph Douglas, a cousin, and my own brother, S. Cade.

The first Sunday Mrs. William Robison came. I had never met her, but she and Mr. Robison came here from Fountain county. Some of the Robisons and Woods live there yet. They lived in the field just south of here, but there is no house there now. She died the next June.

She came the first Sunday and was very cheerful and friendly. It did me lots of good to have a neighbor so soon. She helped me just as if she had always known me, but she was taken suddenly sick of inflammation of the stomach, and died. We miss our friends when they are gone, and do not forget their kindness.

I will now tell about who lived here when we came here that fall. Uncle Tommy Lion lived at Sugar Grove then—in the house that has always stood there until lately. Mr. Bittle bought Mr. Lion out, and then Mr. Patton bought the land of Mr. Bittle. Mr. Hiram Driskal and his family lived on the Driskal farm. All these have gone to their long homes, Mrs. Driskal lately. A Dr. Hobert lived in what is now a cattle pasture, just east of the Sugar Grove schoolhouse. His family all died, three or four with what is known as milk sickness, and then he left and got married again, and then died. Vannata

lived at what is known as the Lamb farm; Mr. David Morehouse lived where Joseph Kerr lives now; Mr. Jesse Piles lived on the Piles farm, the farthest out from the timber. Mrs. Piles still lives in Hoopeston, but Mr. Piles had gone to his long home. Estrige Daniels lived on the farm that La Fayette Patton lives on, but the house was over in the field. Elihu Daniels lived south of William Moudy's. There is no house there now.

Three families of Tanners lived up close to where the frame and brick churches are now; the father, old Mr. Tanner, lived west of the brick church, and Peter lived southeast, close to the frame church, and John lived north. Uncle John Dobbs, as every one called him, lived between the two churches, on a farm known as the old Walker home. His house was the place where we all went to church, had preaching every three weeks, and class meeting every Sabbath, something we do not have now.

The house was a large hewed log house, with a fireplace, and room for three beds, and for all the people that there was to come. Uncle John Dobbs was class leader, and a good one. I would like to go to a meeting of that kind now.

There was John P. Dobbs, and he lived close there, but the next spring he moved out on the prairie, not far from old Pellsville, the farthest out of any one then. He built a house with one room upstairs and one room downstairs. Obidah Marlatt gave it the name of the North Pole, and that was the name of the neighborhood for a while. That was the first house north of us until we got to Ash Grove. That spring two more families moved out on the prairie, Mr. Dove and Mr. Shannon, one east of us, and Mr. Dove northeast of us. I remember seeing Mr. Dove's team the first trip he made with the material for his house. I think the team must have been three miles from our house. There was nothing there then but the prairie grass, green or brown, as the season might be. Southeast of our home half a mile, Harmon Strayer and his brother John lived, and northwest of us about three miles Milton Strayer lived. He is remembered as one of the good men of this world. He was kindness to perfection; and Matthew Elliott, father of W. H. H. Elliott, and he and his family were all Methodists of the old-time religion. Their house was the first house I ever ate in away from home, after coming to Illinois. We went to church to our home, Uncle John Dopps, and went there for dinner. We had venison for dinner, I remember. I thought then we had good people here, and I think so yet. We had been here about three weeks then. There has been regular preaching by the Methodist preachers right in the same place. Only a short time after Uncle John Dopps went away, preaching was in the schoolhouse until the church was built.

I would like to tell the names of the ministers that have been here in these forty-four years, but I think many of them are reaping their reward, and their works do follow them. I will not say anything more about this eventful year at the present time.

1885. That winter was one of the cold, stormy winters of that time, and we got the full benefit of the winds and the snow. I think the snow stayed on the ground perhaps six weeks or more, and cold all the time, and only two rooms to our house, and a smokehouse and a stable for the horses and two cows; no fence, only a pen for the corn fodder for the cows and horses. We bought that, and the cows would stay for the feed, for there was no fence to keep them.

Mr. Patton hired the rails made to fence one hundred and sixty acres of land, a good fence staked and tow rails on the top, and Mr. Patton and Obe Marlatt hauled all the rails to fence it, through the storms and snows. Sometimes the snow would blow and drift so that we could not see the tracks of the wagon of the next load. I could see them when they left the timber, and get almost any kind of a dinner, except cook dry beans, before they would get home to dinner. It was a mile and three quarters straight west of the house where we lived to the edge of the timber where they got the rails, and I could see them very plainly.

In the after part of the winter Obe Marlatt went to Bloomington after plows to break the prairie; that was as near as they could be gotten. He bought five, some for the neighbors. I think if some of the people had to do as we did they would think they would have a hard time now. Well, that spring it was break prairie with our own four-horse team and an ox team. The man broke by the acre, \$2.50 per acre, broke and planted sowed corn, about one hundred and forty acres, and raised the best vegetables of all kinds, melons, pumpkins by the wagon-load, and the best corn. We sold one hundred acres of it to cattle feeders the next fall for five hundred dollars, and was pleased with our year's work.

In the spring we built two rooms to our house, and dug a cistern, fenced in a garden, and put an addition to the stable.

Money was very plentiful that summer or spring. John Adamson that lived at Covington, brought two hundred and over of four-year-old steers to be herded on the prairie, and they were so large and got so fat on the grass without any expense except to pay the herder and for salt, the prairie grass was so fine.

1856 was another year of improvement. We set out the fence to take in more land, hauled more rails, and built two houses on the farm that winter for two tenants to move on the farm in the spring.

That spring I was sick, had a spell of fever, and had a girl to stay with me. I had gotten so I did not need her, and she was going home Sunday morning, but Saturday evening she took a chill and was so bad Sunday we sent for her aunt, Mrs. Solomon Koder, but we did not know anything about the disease then. It was spinal or spotted fever, and the doctor nor any one else could do any good, as doctors fail in most cases of that disease. Her name was Nancy Skinner. There were three of them. They were orphan children, and their aunt, Mrs. Koder, had raised them. All three of them were about grown, and all of them died in a very short time. They had such a good home with their aunt and uncle.

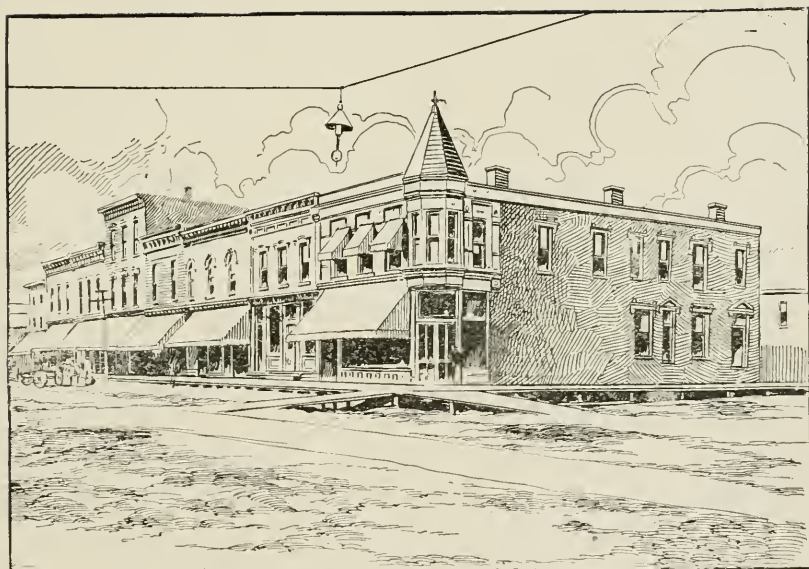
That summer everything was corn. We could not see the country so far away, and the people had come to the country so fast that there were new houses on all sides of us. There was lots of corn, and no sale for it, unless cattlemen came in with cattle to feed the corn to. Corn would grow then if you planted it, without any trouble. The weeds had not got a start then, only the tumble-weeds, and they would roll over the field and lodge against the fences as high as the fence.

1857 was a new year, and how many times we make resolves to lead a better life if these things concern our future welfare which it should. If we start wrong in our work we are very sure to come out wrong, unless we repent and go back and do our work over again. It is so much easier to make good resolutions than it is to keep them. I have found this true all through life. How true the words prove, "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love."

This winter we did not do much work on the farm and improve it so much, and March 23d there came to our house another baby boy. We called him Charles Delaware, the Delaware being the name chosen by his oldest brother.

This summer was the same; plow, raise corn, cut prairie grass, and cut up corn, and have lots of men to work, as we always had. But the last of this year there came the greatest calamity that we were ever called to pass through. Mattie, our only girl, came home from school sick with what proved to be cerebral spinal fever and as spotted fever. She was very bad from the first, and her suffering was simply agonizing. Her muscles were contracted, and sometimes her head would be drawn to her hips almost like a hoop. We had a Dr. Courtney from Blue Grass Grove, and a Dr. Whitmore, but they did not do any good, neither do I think any other doctor would. Their principal medicine was solelia.

She was very sick eight weeks. When we would go to turn her in bed and let her limbs fall it would almost kill her but she lived through all this intense



SOUTH MARKET STREET, PAXTON

suffering. So many times she would have spasms, and we would think she would not live one hour, but she got over all this suffering without being left with some mark of it for life. She was past seven years old at that time.

One or two days after Mattie was taken, LaFayette was taken bad also. He had more fever, and his muscles did not contract so much; it was more in his head, and it has left its mark with him for life, for he has always been deaf ever since that time. He had gone to school just two or three days. He was sick seven weeks, and when he got better so he was conscious and knew us, we did not know that he had lost his hearing, and was to be deaf all his days. But one night some one was there and brought a little dog, and it came close to his bed and he laughed at it. We talked to him about it and he would not say a word, and then we knew he could not hear, but it never came to my mind that it was to be permanent, or it would have been much harder to bear. His speech did not leave him. He just forgot most of the words, being so young, just two or three weeks past four years old, and he says' words yet.

There was living at our house with us a good, sweet girl. Her name was Margaret Shoey. She had been with us about a year and a half. She had a mother and an inhuman stepfather, and the neighbors got her away from them. Mr. Dove had lived close to them, and got us to go and get her, but she hid from him the first time, and the second time she just told him she would not go.

She took the same as the others had Saturday evening. Both doctors were there, but there was no help for her. The spots were more marked than on our own two children. She died Monday night or Tuesday morning at one or two o'clock.

The disease was epidemic. There were fourteen deaths in the surrounding country, but our neighborhood suffered the most. One little girl about two years old, Sylvester King, half a mile north of our home, died. She was sick just two or three days. John Wilson's half a mile southeast of us, lost a sweet little girl about the same age; and Mrs. David Morehouse, half a mile south of us. All these were taken away in two or three days' sickness.

We were all just like one family around there then. I left my own sick ones to go and prepare the bodies of those that had died. I speak of when our house was full of people helping us with our sick ones.

There were no trained nurses then, and no coffins kept in the furniture store for sale. The first thing after death was to straighten the body and take the measure for a coffin, and go to the carpenter's and get a coffin made, for that would take some time and the funeral would be appointed accordingly. I have helped take the measure of a great many people for a coffin, for I was a born

leader in taking care of the sick and caring for the dead. I commenced that kind of work before I was married. I remember a little baby just a few days old that I took on my lap and dressed for the grave, when I was not more than seventeen years old. I think this will sound strange to some.

1858 came with all of the sickness and death. Some had died before the new year came, and some after it came in. Mr. Elihu Daniels, south of the Will Moudy farm, died, and Mr. Lucas had a daughter about fourteen years old to die; A Mr. Mullen, that lived west of the brick church, had two little children that lived with them. They had no children of their own, and these two died. I think the disease was not contagious, but it was epidemic. I never want to see another time like that. There was a family lived east on our farm. Their names were Hartman. They just stayed at our house. They had two little girls, and they slept on the bed with our sick children. Mr. Hartman would only go home to feed his things, sometimes for two or three days; then they would go home to sleep and rest, and come again, and his brother stayed all the time, and their children never took the disease. Who can forget the people that do so much for you in such distress and affliction? The people did not do any work around there, only what had to be done, and went where they were needed the most. I could write about it, and never get done telling how good the people were to us, and all the rest that had sickness and death in their family. The tears will come sometimes yet when I think of it.

That spring the creeks were very high. We could not cross the middle fork of the Vermilion for six weeks, there was so much rain, and no bridges then. There was a man drowned that spring in the creek, close to Charley Wood's home and it was more than a week before the body was gotten out of the creek.

Mr. Patton's father came out to see us that spring, and went home and took sick, and died May 31, 1858. Some one came after Mr. Patton, and he went and found his father very sick. He stayed a few days and then came home, but he was soon sent for again to attend the funeral.

The east fork of the Vermilion was very high. He went horseback, and had to swim his horse to get over the creek. No way to go on the railroad and no telegraph dispatches then.

We took a wagon and went over into Indiana in August to attend the sale of the personal property, Mr. Patton and his brother being the administrators of his father's estate.

1859 came, and nothing special happened until fall, when Mr. Patton rented out our farm here to a Mr. Hunt and Isaac Brown, of Indiana, for five years, and made arrangements to move back to Indiana, his father having left him a

farm. He had two wagons loaded to go back, but I was not very much in favor of going and leaving more here than we could get there. That night after supper Mr. Patton came down to Mr. Wm. Robinson's and bought his farm of two hundred acres of land, the forty that our house is on and the one hundred and sixty south of our home. We never thought of going back to Indiana since, but loved to go and visit, and to see the old home of my childhood, but the most of the ones that I knew so well are gone.

1860. And who is it that is fifty or sixty years of age that does not remember the first five years of the sixties; about Abraham Lincoln and the war times, and how we would watch for the news if we did not have any friends there.

That spring we moved from the house we had lived in about one-quarter of a mile from the house I call home now, into a double hewed log house, with an entry between them. On January 22d there was another one added to our family, and we called him Franklin. He was a very delicate little one and always was through life.

We built our house that fall under many difficulties. The first house we lived in the lumber was all hauled from Indiana, and we expected to have the inside work of our present house of black walnut lumber, but got it home from Indiana, and put it in a kiln to dry, and it took fire and all burned up, except enough for our front door, three wagon loads. All the lumber was hauled from Paxton, and the brick for the cellar from Ten Mile Grove, the other side of Paxton. In October, William went to get a load of brick, and as he was coming home he had a barrel on his wagon on top of the brick, and he was on top of the barrel. The barrel fell off and he also, and the wagon ran over his legs and mashed one of them as wide as the wagon tire, so some of the pieces of bone were on the outside of his leg when I got to where he was. He crawled to the horses and unhitched them and got on and rode one of the horses to Mr. Montgomery's and we were sent for.

Mr. Patton was after cattle up at Paxton. He was sent for and brought two doctors, Dr. L. B. Farrar and a Dr. Smith of Loda, and we had sent for a doctor five or six miles south of our home. We got him home about midnight, and all three doctors held a consultation. Two doctors were for amputation, but Dr. Farrar would not give up to have it done, and the doctors set the limb and Dr. Farrar took the case. Billy, as we called him, had almost bled to death before the doctors got there, and the doctor had cold water poured on his limb for several days every half hour or so, and saved his foot, and Dr. Farrar, of Paxton, should have all the credit that Billy Patton has two feet to walk on to-day.

Well, I did not have a very easy time that fall— all the carpenters and the men to cut corn, for that had to be done if we got anything for the corn; Billy and a sickly baby to care for. I had two girls to work for me some of the time. Mr. Antony Godson worked here, and the girl that afterwards became his wife, Susan Keplinger. John Harmon that lives in Los Angeles, California, did the outside carpenter work, but had Uncle John Koder and a Mr. William Civill to help, and after the building was enclosed Mr. Kuder did the inside work and Mr. Wm. Kinmin did the mason work—the fastest man I ever saw work at any kind of work.

1861 came as all years do, and we had moved in our new house, which was a good one for those times in this country, full two stories high, with five rooms above and four below, and a cellar under the house. It has been a comfortable home for forty years, but sorrows have come often, and pleasant times also. If it were possible for me to live in this house for forty more years and I would take care of it as I have done, it would be a good house at the end of eighty years if fire or cyclone did not destroy it.

The first glass windows in the sitting room are all good, and never one pane of glass has been broken out after forty years.

I would like to see all the different people that have made their homes for a long and some for a shorter time with us in this house in the forty years that it has been my home. Many have gone to their long home that had a home with us and were employed by us to work in the house and on the farm. I would like to see them all at one table. I think it would reach a long way.

1862 came and passed without any special incident to our family, only the same routine of work that comes to people in every-day life. The horrors of the Civil War were thought more of than anything else those times, and how anxious we were to hear from the ones that left.

1863 came and without incident, only we had plenty of work to do. We had a large drove of cattle that year, and herded them on the prairies that summer. We did lots of farming, and raised wheat, at that time, here on the prairie better than can be raised now on the prairie.

In June that year, the 25th, there came a little girl to our home, and we called her Ida J., and she made lots of racket most of the time when her eyes were open.

That December Billy came home from Indianapolis. He had been there at school, and soon after coming home to spend the holidays took the lung fever and was very bad sick; and one week after that, his father took sick with the same dis-

ease. I suppose you would call it pneumonia now. This year had a sad ending to us.

1864 came as no other year that I ever saw, and never to be forgotten. The first day of that year was the worst storm or blizzard. You could not see three steps from you, and it was so cold that you would freeze in a very short time. Sammy Patton and a Mr. Smith had a hundred and twenty-five head of cattle about one mile east of our house that they fed shock corn to, and they would never have gotten home that day if it had not been that there was a rail fence that they got close to and followed to our house and barn. There was a number of people perished that day and night in Illinois. So many school children started home and were lost by the way, and lost their lives or limbs.

Mr. John Wilson, a neighbor, lost over one hundred head of hogs in that storm. Dr. L. B. Farrar came next morning to see our sick folk, and stopped on the way and warmed at Mr. Button's and when he came to our house he was so cold he could hardly get to the house, and the snow was drifted so that it was almost impossible to get any place. Almost all the chickens in the country froze to death.

Mr. Patton took sick that New-Year's day and Dr. Farrar was attending to Billy, and then we sent to Urbana for Dr. Summers to come. Mr. Daniel Moudy went after Dr. Summers. Mr. Moudy will never forget that trip, he almost sacrificed his life for us in that great affliction. Dr. Summers came and stayed three day and nights, and Dr. Farrar was here most of the time. He came through the bitter cold weather and the snow drifts which lasted several weeks, the like of which I have never seen in this country before or since. Mr. Patton was not expected to live, and Billy was very sick all this time.

Eight days after Mr. Patton took sick, Samuel, the second son, took as the rest; the red, brick-colored spittle, and pain in the left side like all the others. The doctor was here at the time he took down, but could not check the disease, and he was very bad sick. Three beds in two rooms, and most of the time three men to care for the sick and sometimes more, day and night. There were no trained nurses at that time, but I got to be a pretty good one before all got well, especially in taking care of fly blisters. Three men sick at one time. It did not take me long sometimes to shed tears with all the care and trouble I had and hard work, and to think of things out of doors and in the house.

Joseph Harris came and left his home and stayed twenty-six days, and fed the cattle and took care of the other stock, and in the deep snow and very cold weather. Money does not pay for such work at such times, and the men in the neighborhood would come and stay, sometimes two or three days and then go

home and sleep and rest, and then come back again. What would we have done if the neighbors hadn't been so good? I never got tired of doing something for the sick after that, as long as I was able, if I could do it, no matter who they were.

After all I have told about this siege of sickness in our own family, Charles McGlaughlin, an old Irishman that had no home only our house, took down with the same disease one week after Sammy took sick: three downstairs and one upstairs; four beds occupied with the sick; one or the other of the doctors was there almost all the time.

Franklin Rice went to Indiana after William Patton, and to tell the folks over there about the family all being sick, and William Patton came and stayed fifteen days, and his sister came soon after and stayed several days. All these trips then were worse than a trip to Denver would be now, but all our family got well after three months from the first to the close of the sickness. There was only one death in the neighborhood, and that was a young man named Shaver.

If we never got sick we would not be thankful for good health. I thought sometimes that I was nearer worn out than the sick were; I would go out in the kitchen sometimes after something and forget what I went after, but never gave up but once and that was the afternoon that Samuel came in and I had to fix another bed for him. I sat down on the floor and cried, and thought I could not do anything more, but I thought this will not do, and I had to do all I could do, and was thankful I had so much help. This is enough for one year, but not half I could tell about it.

1865 was a year of no special incident in the family, only the common work on the farm and in the house. There was always plenty to do that year. Billy came home from Jacksonville the 15th of April, the day Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, and when he came about five o'clock in the evening I went to meet him, and the first word that he said was to ask if I knew that the President was killed. I had not heard it until then. A Mr. Ballard had just moved in the house we first lived in, and I went there the next day, and when I told him he just walked the floor, he was so excited that he did not know what he was doing hardly. The whole country was stirred up and in mourning for the beloved President's death. His name will live through ages to come.

February 27, 1902. After almost one year of the time has passed I will try to finish the sketches I commenced some time ago, and will tell something of what happened in the year that has just closed, the year 1901. In this year I have passed through the greatest affliction of my life of bodily suffering that it was possible for me to pass through, and still live to tell about it, but I will

never tell it all for it would be impossible to tell it so any one would know how much I suffered.

May 8, 1901, I ran a small oak splinter in my forefinger on my left hand, and blood poisoning started from the effects of the splinter. The next day, the 9th of May, we called Dr. Wylie, of Paxton, and Dr. Hester, of Clarence, and they split my finger. The next day they came and split my finger and the third time had eight or nine places opened on my hand. I did not know much by this time, and when the doctor would dress my hand it was all I could do to stand it. The doctor came twice a day for a while, and then went to Chicago for a trained nurse, and she stayed ten days. I had to have medicated water poured in every two hours, and take whiskey and strychnine every four hours. The perspiration from the poison was very offensive, and I had to have alcohol baths twice a day and a chill one every twenty-four hours, and suffered intensely then. I would sometimes look at my hand and wonder if it would ever get better.

Oh, how glad I would be when the doctor would get through dressing it! But everything has an ending, and so did my trouble with blood poisoning, after being under Dr. Hester's care from May 9th until July 17th, making fifty-nine visits. I thank him for his kindness to me all this time. May God's blessing be with him through life, and may he live a righteous life, and be a blessing to the people wherever he may be.

“I am exulting while I may.

For joy is uppermost today.”

1866. This year there was lots of work to do. Some of the children at school and some at work at home. I will here write a subscription, or copy of it, which was written March 13, 1866, for John Keplinger, who lost his limb just at the close of the war. They were our neighbors then.

Sugar Grove, Champaign County, Ill.

We, the undersigned, agree to pay John Keplinger, who has lost a leg in defense of our country, the sum annexed to our names, for the purpose of assisting him to get an artificial leg.

L. H. Unstad	\$2.00
Charles McLaughlan	2.00
Anton Giteen	2.00
R. F. Kerr	1.00
David Patton	5.00
J. H. Flagge	1.00
Harmon Strayer	1.00

Arthur F. Flagge50
Wm. Montgomery	1.00
James Mercer50
Stephen Lamb	1.00
Joshua Lucas	1.00
John Warren	1.00
A. B. Lucas	1.00
W. H. H. Elliott	1.00
S. P. Mitchell	1.00
George P. Gitson	1.00
John H. Gitson	1.00
Aaron Albier	1.00
A. M. Elliot50
Elam Wait50
Thomas Elliot	1.00
Milton Strayer	2.00
Joseph Harris	1.00
G. O. Marlatt	1.00
James B. Lucas	1.00

John Keplinger lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, and I suppose gets a good pension at this time, March 4, 1902.

In the winter of 1866 we had a revival in the church. Here, I see by a letter that I wrote then, that Billy joined the church at Jacksonville that winter, and some names here at home that united with the church—Mrs. Hiram Daniels, George Tanner, and some of the Sedletter boys. The Rev. Bannan was the pastor at that time, and stayed with us while the meeting lasted; and Mrs. Search had so much influence in the church that winter. The Search family moved to Southern Illinois that spring, and we were sorry to see them leave the neighborhood, for Mr. Search was the life of the Sabbath school in the Flagge schoolhouse at that time.

1867 came with its sorrows and joys, as most years do. On February 20, 1867, there came to our house a new baby girl, and she got to be the pet of the family, and ruled things as she pleased in her babyhood and girlhood also. That winter I had lung fever, and came near leaving this world; was sick about four weeks. We named the baby Allie, and now there had been eight children added to the family in a little over twenty-one years, and how many wants are to be supplied with eight children to care for. When Henry C. Dodge wrote "Nobody knows but mother," I think he was right.



OLD SCHOOL HOUSE

“Nobody knows of the work it makes
To keep the home together,
Nobody knows of the steps it takes,
Nobody knows but mother.”

Mary Frayne was here, and had been for over one year, and stayed until the next May or June. She was a kind, good girl.

Billy taught school at the Flagge schoolhouse that winter, and Sammy and La Fayette went to Jacksonville, Illinois, to school, Sammy to the Illinois College, and La Fayette to the deaf-mute institution.

Times have changed since then. I see by a statement today with a Paxton hardware and implement store, that Mr. Patton settled February 7, 1867, with the hardware man at Paxton. He had bought two Schuttler wagons, and they cost \$242.50, and one barrel of flour \$14.50 and one \$13.50, and there were no trusts then. And sold eleven hundred bushels of rye at 85 cents per bushel. This is all about 1867 that I want to tell.

1868 was a new year with many things connected with it. Who is it that enters a new year without making resolves to live a better life, and we should thank the Lord for all the blessings we receive at his hand. We should praise God for a home and the blessings of a home.

But what changes since then! I take from a store bill at that time, dated 1868, George Wright's store, a few items.

One one-half pounds Young Hyson Tea.....	\$1.20
One one-half lb. Young Hyson Tea.....	1.20
10 sheets paper.....	.16
1 lead pencil.....	.10
1 broom40
12 pounds sugar.....	2.00
9 yards bed ticking.....	4.05
4 spools thread.....	.40

I forgot to tell about the building of the first church that was built in the country around here. It was built in 1868. It was a Methodist Episcopal church, and still stands a monument to many that have gone to their long homes, and there has never been a time when there has not been preaching services in it. It was dedicated in November, 1868, by the Rev. Dr. R. N. Davies. It is known as Pleasant Grove Church.

I have before me a note that Mr. Patton paid September 2, 1871, that had been given to make up a deficiency on account of some of the subscribers failing

to pay their subscription—I think over three hundred dollars in all; but Mr. Patton was very proud of our church and paid it willingly.

1870. This year was without special events to our family. Christmas of that year I went to Chicago with Edd Kingon, a deaf-mute that stayed with us that year, and when he went home to spent the holidays, I went with him, and stayed four days. I had a nice time, and was very much interested in what I saw in Chicago, but it was not much like it is now. I was at an entertainment at the Wabash Avenue M. E. church, and to the First M. E. church, and to the First Presbyterian church, and to the Museum, and everything was different from what I had ever seen. I thought it wonderful, and Mr. Kingon and family entertained me royally, and showed me around the city. I came home, but Edd spent some time before he came back.

September 3d of this year I got the first sewing machine that I ever had, only a little hand sewing machine to fasten to a table; but the Grover and Baker machine cost seventy-five dollars, a note on a year's time. "P. S. Point Pleasant, Robert Bradley, Agent," so says the old note before me.

1871. The years come and go, whether we are ready or not. Our home affairs were just the same as usual throughout this year, as far as I can remember. The last days of September, Mr. Patton and I went to Indiana, and came home the first week in October, I think the driest time I ever saw, and the great fire at Chicago the 9th of October made us all feel sad; and the forest fires filled the air so full of smoke that you could not see very far. We had no deep well then, and had to haul water for a mile, and the stock had to be taken to the creek for water. It took the cattle herder half of the time to get the cattle to the water and back.

1874. The new year had dawned upon us in quiet beauty, and the sunshine of God's love is over us. The dear old year was kind to us. Each day brought some new blessing to us, whether we were thankful for the blessing or not. The new year brought to us a deep well, with fine water after three months of hard work and many discouragements, Mr. Ketchum and Mr. William Le Fever sank a well, or made a trial for a well, and did not succeed, and then moved to another place, where our well is at the present time; and oh, the joy that came to us when the well was completed that June, and the windmill of the Haliday make was put up and ready for work, and the well-house finished and a tank for the milk put in. There was not any place that I enjoyed at our house so much as the well-house, and why should I not, after twenty years of getting water sometimes one place and sometimes another. One shallow well would go dry and we would go to another, and then when it rained they would all have water in and would overflow,

and the water would not be fit to use, not even to wash dishes in. Sometimes I could not get supper until the men would come home from the field and haul water. This was Illinois before deep wells were made. 2 Peter ii; 17; Wells without water. Rev. xxi: 6: I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. All the years since that time the well has never gone dry, for the supply has never run out.

1875. Again a new year has come to us. The old year was kind, and waited and watched to supply all our needs. This year in many things was the same to us as other years.

W. T. Patton, or Billy as we called him when we wanted him to get up to breakfast, thought the best thing he could do would be to get married. So November 25, 1875, he was married to Fanny M. Flagge. Our family had been going up the mountain, and stopped on the top when Allie was born in 1867, and stayed there for seven years, and then commenced to go down on the other side, one by one, until all are gone, and I am left alone. Billy sat at our table longer than he has at his own, at this writing.

The realm of advanced activity in the years since that time is everywhere manifested; the resources of every department are being fully taxed. Daring adventures, mechanical inventions, scientific discoveries, commercial enterprises—all these give signs of progress and unparalled activity in the years since the date of this page.

1876. Almost always the new year makes us think of past years, and what may happen in the year we make our figures for now.

This year was centennial year, and many memories of that time cling to 1776 and to the year 1876, for the celebration of the year at Philadelphia that year was a grand celebration of the one hundred years before.

There was no special occurrence in our family that year that I remember of until October. Mr. Patton went to visit his old home in Fountain county, Indiana, where he always loved to go so well, and his oldest sister came home with him to visit us a week and then return home. Mr. Patton was going to take her home, but on Friday evening she took a chill. She was very sick from the first, and died the next Wednesday, the 20th of October, 1876. The body was taken back home. It was so sad for us to think how well she was when she came to us, and how soon she was taken from us. When we went over to her home, my brother and his wife had gone to Philadelphia to the Centennial. This is all I will say about this year. So many sad things come to us in our lives.

1877. The new years come to us with many memories of the past, and of our duty before us for the future for each other, and to live for the good of others, and that the world might be benefited by us being in it if we live right.

The 11th of February the first granddaughter was born to us. W. T. Patton and Fanny M. Patton. A bright little babe, and how much we were all interested in its welfare; but alas, how soon it was taken from us! It was named Eva.

Some time before this I had been called to superintend the arrangements where there was a new baby, and looked after the welfare of the mother and child, and I can say I went wherever I was called, day or night, rain or shine, and I always asked God to guide me aright in whatever I did, and success attended all my work of this kind, and there was never a death of mother or child in the more than twenty years of my practice of that kind of work within a circle of three or four miles, and sometimes five or six miles. I was called to visit the sick and care for the dying. There were no trained nurses at that time, and the undertaker was not sent for as they are now. I always knew that there was no one sick or I would know of it, for I was often sent for before the doctor, and if I said a doctor was needed, that was sufficient, he was sent for. I would often stay with the sick and the dying two or three days. My motto was that if I could be more benefit away from home than at home there was the place I wanted to be. I never lived for myself alone. I always took an interest in other people's welfare. I rejoice that I was permitted to live at the time I did, and in the evening time of life I would do as much as ever if strength would permit me to do it; but now I will do as much as I can with my pen by writing letters and cheering words to all. Poverty and riches have little to do with our happiness in this life.

1879. This year is not to be forgotten by some of our family. This year, the 10th of April, the oldest daughter of the family left the home of her childhood, the family circle, the loving mother, the kind and indulgent father, and the affectionate brothers and sisters, for the affections of another, and changed her name from Martha L. Patton to Martha L. Flagg, to share the joys and sorrows of a husband, James W. Flagg. One more had left the parental roof. The family are going down on the other side of the hill one by one.

This was a prosperous year on the farm. The largest and best crop of wheat that year, and our cattle were fine and did well. We got a good price for everything.

1880. This year came in with joy and gladness, but how soon our joy may be turned to sorrow. We never know what a day may bring to us, and we will be called to endure trials that we think we cannot bear up under. This was the case with me at this time.

Mr. Patton left home February the 20th of this year, on Friday morning, and went to his old home over on Coal Creek, what he always felt was his home more than Illinois; after living here twenty-six years; Fountain county was dearer to him than the home we had here.

That night he took a chill, pneumonia developed, and there was no remedy. The doctors were powerless. Dr. Spinning of Covington, and Dr. Pettit, of Veedersburgh were both called. He had gone to the farm that his father had given him to stay all night. A Mr. Isley lived there, and had the farm rented. I was telegraphed for, and went to Rankin that night and stayed, and left the next morning at four o'clock. I got there at noon, and found him very sick.

I dispatched for Charley, and he got there Thursday, and Thursday I sent for Samuel, and he got there Friday, and all the rest came Saturday, and Sunday about eleven o'clock the suffering was all over with him. He was conscious to the last, and had been all through his sickness and what a consolation it was to hear him tell all about every arrangement that he wanted made, and about the place he wanted his remains laid to rest. He wanted the Rev. Mushgrove sent for. He was pastor of the church at Danville at that time, and he came. He put his arms around Mr. Mushgrove's neck and talked to him so much. The consolation there was in all this. His life was ended February 29, 1880.

This year there were two grandsons born in the family. A son to W. T. and Fanny Patton, the 5th of July, 1880, and was another addition to the name of Patton, and he was named David. On the 8th of August, 1880, a son was born to J. W. Flagg and Martha I. Flagg, and he was David Ross Flagg. He ought to be true to his country if his name has anything to do with it.

September 28, 1880, La Fayette Patton and Ella McHenry were married; another one less to sit at the table, and one more towards the bottom of the hill when all will be gone. They were married at Sparta, Illinois. None of our family at the wedding only Charley Patton.

This year, April 19, 1883, there was a boy came to live with W. T. and Fanny Patton, and they named him Charley. A large fat baby, and he is that way now, only he is not a baby. In September of this year, little Fred-

die died. On October 6th of this year, Alfred Ray Patton was born to La Fayette and Ella Patton, and now he is six feet tall.

1885. February of this year saw one of the family leave the home of her childhood for the protection of another. Ida J. Patton and Charles Augustus Lamb were married, and one less on the side of the hill and one less in the home. Oh how sad we feel sometimes, when one by one they leave the home! But such is life. They were married February 12, 1885.

September 28, 1885, another son born to J. W. Flagg and Martha I. Flagg, and they named him Willie, and that is all the name he has yet, poor boy!

Well, things went along as usual, but all these years I always attended church, and enjoyed going to church more than anything else, and teaching little boys in Sabbath school. The weeks were not so long when I got to go to church on the Sabbath day.

On December 13, 1885, there was born to Ida J. Lamb and C. A. Lamb a sweet little lamb for them to feed and care for, and they named her Nellie, and that is her name yet, and she is larger than her mother now.

The 3d of February, 1886, I went to Indiana for my brother's birthday. I thought he had lived sixty years and I wanted to eat dinner with him that day. I went without any announcement of my coming, and surprised him a little perhaps. It was the 4th of February, but the next time they expected me to be there, and the event is celebrated yet at that home.

This year on August 11th, a little girl made its appearance at W. T. and Fanny Patton's, and claimed admittance as one of the family, and they adopted her and called her Carrie Patton.

October 18, 1888, there came to Billy and Fanny, a little girl, and they called her Elsie. She is not very large yet, but the baby of the family is almost always babied too much for their own good.

This April, Grace Kirkley came to our house to board and teach school at the Sugar Grove schoolhouse, and afterward changed her name to Patton.

What a trial to give up the last girl of the family! All say, "Now what will you do?" "Who will you live with now?" "Will you move to town?" All had some advice to give as to what would be the best thing to do. Well, I did just as I had been doing. Stayed in the old home, which was home to me still. I always loved my home better than I did any place else, but I have to depend on other people's children to help me make it a home for myself, and the different ones that have stayed with me in these years have all been good to me, and I have had a good home with the different ones. I have tried to make a home for them, for some of them did not have any home but my

home, but how well have I succeeded? I do not know what they say about it, but I hope that I did not do anything wrong about the way I treated them.

Mary Allie Patton and David Henry Cade were married June 7, 1894, and went to Chicago the same evening, and came back to visit his folks at Peresville, Indiana, and soon after went to housekeeping in Potomac, Illinois.

ILLINOIS IN 1854, AND SOME OF THE CHANGES IN THE COUNTRY
SINCE THAT TIME, AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN WHICH I HAVE
LIVED SINCE THAT TIME.

It was not a barren waste; it was a bleak cold place in the winter time. The snow went the way the wind took it as far as it wanted to go, and the tumbleweeds also; but in the summer time it was all grass and flowers, and you could see as far as the strength of your eyes would let you see, and the tall grass, when the wind blew, was like the waves of the sea, beautiful to behold. If you knew where you wanted to go you had nothing to do but to start out and go, but look out for the ponds of water or you would be right in one if you did not, for the grass in the ponds would be higher than your head, and it would be lots more trouble to get out than to get into a pond. They were just like getting into trouble about other things, it was easier to get in than to get out. Now you have the hedge fence and the straight roads and the square corners and the groves, and you can't see a wagon five miles on the prairie as you could then.

When we came to this county it was Vermilion county. That was in November 2, 1854. It was a lonely place a little farther out on the prairie than our neighbors were at that time, for the people that were here wanted to live close to the timber. The wolves would howl and make the nights seem lonely.

Our neighbors at that time were Mr. Thomas Lions. He lived at what was called Sugar Grove, and which still has that name. Their house was just west of the Patton Cemetery, in the corner close to the timber; the old house was there until about five years ago. Mr. Lions died in Paxton.

Mr. Vannata lived on what is called the Lamb farm. Mr. Pliny Lamb bought the farm of Vannata in 1856, and died there in 1858. Mr. David Morehouse lived where Joseph Kerr lives now; Mrs. Morehouse died in 1858, and Mr. Morehouse married again and moved away from the country.

Eastidge Daniels lived on the land that La Fayette Patton lives on at this time; he sold the land to David Patton, and moved close to Danville, Illinois,

and died there; Elisha Daniels lived on the farm that William Moudy owns at this time, and he died there in 1858, loved and respected by all who knew him.

Mr. John Dopps lived between where the two churches now stand, just where the house is that Mr. Daniel Moudy owns at this time, and that was the place where we went to church at that time, and we still go there. Uncle John Dopps, as we all called him, could sing and shout and praise God every Sunday in the year. The circuit preacher came every three weeks at that time. One daughter died while they lived there, but Mr. Dopps sold out and went West, and how we missed him. Then we had preaching in the Flagg schoolhouse until we built the church in 1868.

A. Mr. Turner lived just west of where the brick church is, but soon left the country. Mr. Matthew Elliott lived close to where Roy Elliott, a grandson, lives, and he lived and died on that farm. His life was always for the right, and he was never absent from church when it was possible for him to be there. One son, W. H. H. Elliott, still lives, and the old home is still dear to him; two daughters live at Catlin, Illinois, a Mrs. Boggus and a Mrs. Wilson.

Mr. David Robison lived where I now live, in a log house. William Robison lived south and a little east of our house. There is no house there now. His wife died there the next June, 1855. She was a good woman, and left one little boy; she came to our house the first Sunday after we came to this Illinois home, and helped me get dinner. There were five men helped us move here. We got here Thursday evening, and all stayed over Sunday. I was pleased to have her come to visit us so soon, but she was soon taken away from us. William Robison got married again, and went west.

Mr. Harmon Strayer and his brother lived on the farm now owned by Mrs. Grace Culbertson, but Harmon Strayer sold it to Mr. John Wilson, and then bought land northwest of here and improved it. His father, Mr. Jacob Strayer, lived south of where Harmon Strayer lived, and Milton Strayer lived half a mile east of his father. There was a father and five sons, all passed from earth—all good, peaceable men.

Hiram Driskel lived south of Sugar Grove. He died several years ago, but has two sons living, George and Ephraim. Mr. Jesse Piles lived on what is known as the old Piles farm. He came to what is now Butler township in March, 1853, and was the first settler in what is now Butler township, and lived on the same farm until his death, July 4, 1884.

When we went to Indiana, we went past the Piles home, and that was the last house but one between Sugar Grove and Marysville, now Potomac. There



EXPLOSION, PANTOX ELECTRIC CO., MARCH, 1900

was one house, but I cannot locate the place. A man by the name of Medsker lived there. You could not stop and ask, "Is this the right road?" or "How far is it to Marysville?" at that time, for there was no one to ask, and the road paid no attention to section lines then.

Everything for our house and stable was hauled along that road. Mr. Patton started at three o'clock one morning to go to Marysville to get nails to build our stable. Our flour and everything we used was hauled from Covington, Indiana, or some place along the road, and the country mills.

There was not a railroad in Danville at that time, but the Illinois Central was running trains. They had commenced in the spring of 1854, and the company that built the road got every other section of land on either side of the road for ten miles, and some places farther, but there was only one house at Paxton at that time, and the company has never been willing or able, after fifty years, to build a decent depot to accommodate the traveling public.

In a year or two great changes took place in this country; the land was all taken up, and that that had been bought for one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre and up was sold for five or six dollars per acre, and has increased in value ever since, and the improvements have kept pace with the value of the land.

Then we put bells on our horses and cows, so we could tell where they were on foggy mornings, but now the bells are in the churches and on the railroads.

DIX TOWNSHIP.

All that part of Ford county lying in range 7 and 8 east was originally called Drummer Grove. In 1864 steps were taken by the citizens to have the name changed to Dix, in honor of General Dix, of New York. The petition was granted by the board of supervisors. Afterward the following townships were created or set off from Dix, viz: Drummer, Sullivant and Peach Orchard, leaving the present township of Dix.

Among the early settlers of this township were John Waggoner, John D. Bell, David Metcalf, Ephriam and James A. Blackford, Samuel Todd, George Waggoner, Asa Trickle, John Wallace, Jackson Pitser, R. Stephen Chamberlin, Joseph Kendall, John Brown, James Reed, Levi Foutz, Leonard Pierpont, David Pollock, John Schoonmacher, Jonathan Bedell, Charles Wilcox and Peter Beatty.

The first postoffice in Dix township was East Bend, with John S. Waggoner first postmaster; his commission was dated November 26, 1859.

The first person who died in Dix township was Asa Trickel, who was buried at the Wallace graveyard near Elliott.

The first schoolhouse built in this township was in district No. 2, built in the spring of 1859. Miss Cynthia Newlin, daughter of William Newlin, of Patton township, taught the first school in this district and in the township.

The first religious service held in Dix township was at the house of John S. Waggoner, by Rev. Mr. Wenner, who was a United Brethren minister.

ELLIOTT.

The land where Elliott stands was donated by S. P. Bushnell, Samuel Elliott and Gustave Punke. It was the undivided half of forty acres. Mr. Elliott contributed twenty acres, Mr. Bushnell ten acres and Mr. Punke ten acres. It was surveyed and laid out by County Surveyor H. J. Howe. John Richardson built the first elevator in Elliott. J. J. Crawford was the first postmaster, and Hugh Lambert was the first station agent. The village was named after Samuel Elliott. The village is surrounded by a fine farming country and is a good trading point.

The first town meeting was held at the Oregon schoolhouse, on the 4th day of April, 1865. The meeting was called to order by A. M. Smith, the town clerk. J. S. Brown was appointed moderator. At this meeting, the following township officers were elected: supervisor, Ephriam M. Blackford; town clerk, A. M. Smith; assessor, William B. Holmes; collector of taxes, Benjamin Smith; justices of the peace, Leonard Pierpont and John S. Waggoner; highway commissioners, John Bell, Joseph Kendall and David Pollock.

The following sketches are of some of the early settlers and prominent citizens who lived in Dix township:

JOHN S. WAGGONER, one of the old settlers and business men of Dix township, was born in Lewis county, Virginia, June 28, 1822, where he lived several years; then moved to Boone county, Indiana. He made his home there for about twenty years. He came to Ford county in the fall of 1855 and settled on section 33. Mr. Waggoner was the first justice of the peace of the township. He held the office many years and was also postmaster at East Bend several years.

JOHN D. BELL was born in England, November 22, 1819, where he remained until he was twenty-two years of age. He came to America and settled in Providence, Rhode Island, where he worked at his trade in the print works for five years. He came to this township in 1857. In 1863, he enlisted in the Chicago Mercantile Battery and served with it for three years. Mr. Bell was the first town clerk of this township and also held the office of assessor and collector. He was the first trustee of the schools.

DAVID METCALF, a native of England, county of Westmoreland. Here he was born November 26, 1823, and lived at his home, working at the cooper's trade, for twenty-eight years. Emigrating to America, he settled in Ford county. In May, 1851, he married Miss Sarah Bell.

JOHN RICHARDSON, a native of Liverpool, England, emigrated to America in 1849 and landed in Canada. He moved to Buffalo, New York, learned the mason's trade, and worked at it in Detroit, Michigan. In 1856 he moved to Iowa and prospected around until his funds were nearly exhausted. He came to Paxton and worked at his trade several years. He then rented a farm, and in time, by his frugality and industry, he was able to purchase eighty acres of land. To this he added year by year until he had accumulated five hundred acres. This farm he exchanged with Judge Patton, of this county, for one thousand acres lying in Patton and Dix townships. In 1873, he came to Elliott and engaged in the grain business. In 1855 he married Miss Sarah Simons, of Michigan. They had seven children.

CYRUS R. MARSHALL was born in Windsor county, Vermont, in 1837, where he lived until 1850, working on a farm. He then moved to Woodford county, Illinois. In 1878 he came to Dix township and bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 3. In October, 1857, he married Elvira Johnson, of Peoria county, Illinois.

ABEL HANSON was the first Norwegian who moved into Dix township. He came here in 1871 and rented a farm for three years. He then purchased eighty acres in section 14, and later eighty acres in section 22.

ROBERT JARDINE came from Logan county, Illinois. He was born in Scotland. He came to Dix township in 1867, settling on a farm in section 4.

ANDREW HAMILTON was born in Fairview township, York county, Pennsylvania, November 6, 1836. He lived there, working on a farm and at the carpenter's trade, over twenty-eight years. He came to Illinois, first settling in Livingston county, where he remained nine years, then moved to Dix township. He was married, September 14, 1862, to Mrs. Martha E. Carothers. They had three children.

A. A. BARROW was born in Virginia, July 8, 1848, where he remained until 1867, when he removed to Bloomington, Illinois, with his father, who came to Ford county and bought several hundred acres of land. Mr. Barrow was married, December 25, 1872, to Miss Martha E. Barrow.

GEORGE HENRY TRAILOR was born in Illinois, October 20, 1836. He lived in Bureau county for thirty years, engaged in farming. He then sold out and came to Livingston county, where he bought a farm and lived for six years. In 1859 he crossed the plains and went into the gold mines of the far west, meeting with good success. In 1861 he married Miss Eliza J. Swisher, who died in three years, and by whom he had twin daughters. His second wife was Miss Mary Butts.

JESSE TODD was born in Indiana in 1834, where he lived seventeen years. He then moved to Vermilion county, Illinois. Soon after, he came with his father to Dix township. He married Miss Rosanna Hagin, March 18, 1858, in Urbana, Champaign county, Illinois. They had eight children.

JOHN M. MINER came to Illinois in 1858 and settled in Homer township, Champaign county, Illinois. He moved into Ford county in 1863 and was superintendent of the great Sullivant farm for several years. He was town collector, town treasurer and school director for many years.

ANDREW M. SPEEDIE, son of Matthew Speedie, settled on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 17.

SAMUEL W. WADE was the owner of eighty acres in section 4, Dix township.

G. W. PRESTON was the owner of east half of the northwest quarter of section 8, in this township.

J. C. THORNTON was born in Virginia, in 1835. He was married to Miss Anna M. Johnson in 1863. He moved to Ford county in 1864. Here he held various town offices.

MATTHEW SPEEDIE came from Scotland in 1850 and settled first in Fall River, Massachusetts, where he pursued his trade of millwright for sixteen years. He came to Dix in 1866. He was married June, 1847, to Isabella Colston, of Scotland.

HENRY HARRISON ATWOOD was married, February 28, 1862, to Miss L. M. Daniels, of Woodbury, Vermont. He was born in Lamoille county, Vermont, in 1836, and came west in 1850, locating in Ohio. He came to Dix township in 1866 and became the owner of a farm of four hundred and eighty acres, on which he raised fine stock.

SAMUEL ELLIOTT was born in Holmes county, Ohio, in 1837 and lived there thirty-five years, then came to Dix township. In 1860 he married Miss Anna Crawford, of Coshocton county, Ohio. Mr. Elliott was instrumental in laying out the village in this township that bears his name.

JOHN W. EDWARDS was born in Morganfield, Kentucky, in 1842. In 1868 he moved to La Salle county, Illinois, from there he went to Marshall county; and came to Dix township in 1877. He married Miss Chrissa L. Long, of Marshall county, in 1866.

AARON C. BULLINGTON was born in Quincy, Illinois, in 1844. His parents moved to Jefferson county, Missouri, soon after he was born, living there several years. They came to Woodford county, Illinois. In 1862 the subject of this sketch enlisted in the Eighty-sixth Illinois Infantry and served in the Civil war for three years. Mr. Bullington was twice married, first in 1869 to Miss Mary C. Leonard, by whom he had two children. His second wife was Atlanta V. Blake, of this township, by whom he had three children. Mr. Bullington settled in this township in 1876. In 1882 he was elected supervisor.

J. E. ILGIN came to Ford county in an early day. He was born in Cape May county, New Jersey, in 1836. In 1859, he married Miss Barbara E. Crothers. She died several years afterward, and his second wife was Miss Ellen Myers.

JOHN HOLLEN, importer and breeder of fine horses, settled on section 3.

C. G. RYERSON was born in Norway in 1832, emigrating to America in 1857. He settled first in La Salle county, then came to Ford county, locating on section 28. In 1861 he married Miss Knutson, a native of Norway.

HENRY SHIELDS was born in Ireland in 1835. He came to America and settled in New York state in 1844. He came to Ford county a few years later. He was married to Miss Almira Sharp in January, 1865. He was again married, to Anna Eliza Spencer in 1875.

JOSEPH RICHMOND was the leading druggist of Elliott.

A. T. BLAKE was born in Virginia, March 28, 1824. His parents moved to Ohio, where he lived until twenty-two years old, helping his father in cultivating hops. In 1847 he left Ohio and moved to Wayne county, Illinois, where he lived on a farm for seven years; then went to Logan county and farmed for sixteen years; then settled in Ford county. He was postmaster at East Bend for eleven years; keeper of the poor house for six years; road commissioner for nine years; and held various other trusts in the gift of the people. In 1847 he married Cynthia Statts.

JOHN KEESEY was born in Maryland in 1814, where he lived for seven years; then emigrated to Ohio, where he lived about thirty years. He then came to Ford county, first settling in Patton township, where he lived on a farm for eighteen years; then moved to Elliott and opened a meat market. He was twice married—first in Ohio in April, 1837, to Saloma Crise. They had ten children. In 1880 Mr. Keeseey was married to Mrs. Jane Culbertson.

JOHN SHILTS, a native of Wurtemberg, Germany, came to the United States in 1853, and to this county in 1868, residing on section 24.

PELLA TOWNSHIP.

The territory now organized into Pella township originally formed a part of Stockton, and from 1861, when Brenton was organized, up to 1870 it formed a part of that township.

This township was the youngest of the sisterhood of townships in Ford county, and was unfavorably located for early settlements, on account of its being mostly a low, level prairie and exceedingly wet, except in the driest times of the year. The Vermilion swamps extend across the northern part of the township, the south fork of the north Vermilion river, a slow, sluggish stream, flows across the center, and various marshes and sloughs are scattered over the township, and much of the land was long regarded as irreclaimable. But of late years many Irish families have moved in and bought the wet lands, and at once began the work of ditching and tile draining, and such other changes were made as to warrant the belief that Pella ranks as one of the best townships in the county.

The first settler in this township was Robert Hall, who bought land in sections 16 and 28; he came in 1857. The next settler was Henry Atwood, who settled on the southwest quarter of section 22. Henry Mitchinson came the same year and settled on the northwest quarter of section 22. Lyne Starling, a cousin of M. L. Sullivant, of Sullivant township, settled on section 35.

The first man to locate in Pella after the war, was John Bales; the same year James McCarty and James Taggart came. In 1868, Edward Doran. The McTier family, Robert Wells, Andrew Hickman, Hugh Rice, Abraham Fadden, M. C. Kice, Daniel Marble, William Andrews and Owen Murtaugh, settled in this township, and about the same time Charles Yates, James Sheldon, the Reed boys, Charles, Arby, Thomas Butler and Ed, Thomas Correll, J. S. Ruff, Patrick McNoughton, Andrew Stuart, William Michael, and John Ward.

Lyne Starling, who came from New York, built the house in section 35, known as the old Brenton House. This house was built of the best material and in a very substantial manner. The building of this large house and the extensive preparations for farming on a large scale by Mr. Starling were quite an encouragement to the settlers. The Starling property was all of sections 1 and 3, east half of 17, and northwest quarter of 5, in Brenton, and 31, 33 and 35 in Pella.

The first marriage in Pella was between Henry Atwood and Miss Mary Wylie. They were married by W. P. Pearsons, of Onarga, November 16, 1850.

The first school taught in Pella was at the house of Henry Atwood in 1863, his wife being the first teacher. The first schoolhouse built was the Reed schoolhouse, in district No. 1, Butler Reed being the first teacher.

The first town meeting was held at the Center schoolhouse.

Pella used to be an immense hay field during the war, thousands of tons being annually cut, pressed and shipped to market.

There is no village, postoffice or church in this township, the trading point for most of the citizens being Piper City, which lies close to the south line of the township.

JOSEPH MITCHINSON, one of the leading citizens, was born in England, in June, 1838. His parents were farmers, and Joseph worked on the farm for several years, then left there and came to America. He settled in this township in 1858, on section 22. He became the owner of one hundred and twenty acres of rich farming land. In 1865 he married Elizabeth Agnew, of England, by whom he had six children.

WILLIAM P. MOORE, one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers of Pella, was born in Perry county, Ohio, in 1834. He left there in 1866, and settled in Warren county, Illinois; after living there two years, he moved to Pella township and settled on a farm in section 32. In 1862, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Fourteenth Ohio Regiment, and served in the Civil war until its close. He was married to Eliza Hickman, of Pennsylvania, in 1857, by whom he had six children. Mr. Moore was road commissioner for many years.

CHARLES A. COOK was born in London, Ontario, November 3, 1845. He left Canada and settled in La Salle county in 1857, and came to Ford county, Pella township, in 1870. He became the owner of a rich farm in section 30. Mr. Cook was twice married; first to Angeline Dean, in 1870; she died in 1877. In 1879 he married Miss Carrie Montelius; she died in 1883.

WALL TOWNSHIP.

Wall township was organized out of the original township of Patton in 1867. It is bounded on the north by Lyman township; on the east by Iroquois county; south by Patton township, and west by the townships of Dix and Peach Orchard. It was named after Abraham Wall, the first settler who came to this township from Marshall county, Illinois, in 1854. Among other early settlers were Fred Dienelt, James Simpson, Christian Snyder, Samuel Bell, William Noel, William Kenward, J. Bonsel, Paul Cooley, John Travis, Levi Miller, Agrippa Wells, Seth Lytle, William Liggett, James Barnes, John Morris, John Richardson, John Bayne, and Edgar Sharp.

The first town meeting was held at the Stringtown schoolhouse district No. 2, when the following were elected the first township officers: William Liggett, supervisor; Steven Fry, town clerk; John Morris, assessor; John Richardson and John Morris, justices of the peace.

The first schoolhouse erected in Wall was the Noel schoolhouse, and William Noel's wife was the first teacher. The Stringtown schoolhouse was the next one built, and Miss Emma Simons, daughter of the first county clerk, taught the school for two years.

James Barnes' son Walter, was the first child born in the township.

This township contains only a small per cent of unimproved land, and its inhabitants are well-to-do farmers.

Among the leading farmers who lived in this township, may be noted the following:

JOHN F. KENNEY was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1835. He came to this township from Putnam county in 1872, settling on section 14. He married Miss Mary E. Phelps, of Putnam county, in 1860. Mr. Kenney was one of the many men who came to this county from the east without capital, and by his hard work he became the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of land.

WILLIAM KENWARD, a native of Sussex county, England, came to Illinois in 1851. He was twice married—first to Elizabeth McConaty, a native of Lake county, Illinois, who died in 1871. In 1873 he married Rhoda Snelling, a native of Harrison county, Ohio. Mr. Kenward came here poor, but by hard work, economy and strict integrity, became the owner of two hundred and eighty-two acres.

FRED DIENELT, born in Brunswick, Germany, in 1828. In 1843 he went to sea, sailing around the world before he was seventeen years old, and there

are few places in this hemisphere that have not been visited by him. He came to Ford county in 1858, being the second settler in this township. He was twice married—first to Mary Kaminsky, of Germany, who died in 1872, and the following year he married Mattie Wells. His library was considered the largest and most valuable of any person's—excepting professional men—in the county, and much of his time was passed in reading scientific works and studying astronomy.

LEVI MILLER was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, in 1831. He moved to Illinois from Ohio in 1854, and to Wall township from La Salle county, in 1864. In 1852, he married Maria Werts, of Preble county, Ohio, by whom he had ten children. He laid out the road districts of Wall township.

WILLIAM KENNEY was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania. He came to this township in 1875. He was married in 1850 to Mary McVane, by whom he had six children.

RICHARD TRIGGER was born in Devonshire, England, in 1832. He came to America in 1859, settling in Peoria county. He came to Ford county in 1869, purchasing the north half of section 11. He was married to Elizabeth A. Stoves, of England, in 1855. They had nine children. Mr. Trigger was highway commissioner for a number of years.

SAUNDERS McCORMICK was born in La Salle county, Illinois, in 1836. He taught in the public schools of his native county for several years. He spent two years in the gold mines of the western territories, and also was bookkeeper for a cotton merchant of Texas. He came to Ford county in 1868, settling on the northwest quarter of section 9. He was justice of the peace for many years.

WILLIAM A. CAMPBELL was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1843. He moved to Fountain county, Indiana, where he resided for a short time; then came to Ford county, settling in Trichel's Grove, Button township. He was married to Elizabeth C. Irwin in 1868, by whom he had four children. His father, O. H. Campbell, was one of the early settlers of Ford county.

ROBERT M. KARR was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1834. In 1869, he came to Ford county, becoming the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in section 34. He was married in 1858. He enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-third Hundred Day service, and served one year.

WORTH McCORMICK was born in La Salle county, Illinois, in 1853, living there until nine years of age, then came to Drummer township, where he lived until he moved to Wall township. In 1877, he married Miss Samantha English, of Piqua county, Ohio.

JOHN HAMILTON was a native of Albany, New York. He came to Chicago in 1843 and was bound out to a farmer in Kendall county for eleven years. He married Mary Baxter in 1861. He became the owner of two hundred and eighty acres of fine farming land. He was road commissioner and school director for several years.

CHARLES SPELLMEYER was born in Prussia, in 1831. He emigrated to the United States in 1853, settling in Putnam county. He moved to this township in 1875, settling on section 16, where he became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land. He was married in 1857 to Louisa Kottkamp, by whom he had seven children.

GEORGE MINCH was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, in 1847, where he lived until 1881, when he moved to this township. He became the owner of the northeast quarter of section 3, and two hundred and forty acres in section 22, Lyman township. He was married in 1869.

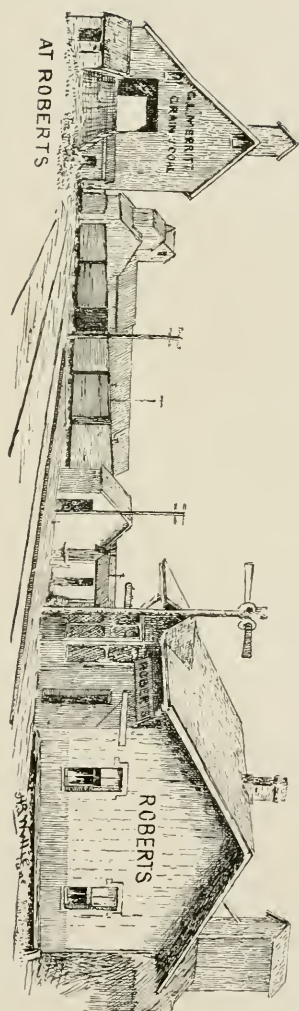
CHARLES PHILLIPS was born in Lancashire, England, in 1814. He came to Philadelphia when quite young, where he remained for a short time, then moved to the state of Delaware. In 1854 he came to Putnam county, Illinois, where he lived for eighteen years, then came to Ford county. He was married in 1843.

EDGAR G. SHARP was born in New York in 1833. In 1855 he went to Wisconsin, living there three years, then came to Wall township, settling on section 30. He was married in 1853 and was the father of eight children.

JAMES H. SNELLING was a native of Illinois. He came to Ford county in 1877, and settled on section 11. Mr. Snelling was teacher of penmanship for many years, he being the finest penman in this part of the state.

LYMAN TOWNSHIP.

At a meeting of the board of supervisors held September 9, 1867, a petition was presented them for the purpose of having a new township erected out of that part of the township of Brenton, described as town 25 north, range 9 east of the third principal meridian. The board finding that the commissioners had complied with the requirements of the law, granted the petition. The township took its name, or was named after its first resident settler, Samuel Lyman, who settled in the northeast corner of the township, on section 2, in the year 1856. The township is bounded on the north by Brenton township, on the east by Iroquois county, south by Wall township, and on the west by Peach Orchard township and the county of Livingston. The first town



meeting was held in school district No. 2, on the 7th day of April, and at this meeting the following township officers were elected: Samuel Woodward, supervisor; A. M. Haling, town clerk; Daniel Woodward, collector; A. V. Burcham, assessor; A. V. Burcham, James Roberts and P. S. Gose, highway commissioners; Samuel Woodward and T. A. Ireland, justices of the peace; Daniel Woodward and Daniel Althen, constables.

At the same meeting, they voted to divide the township into four road districts and nine school districts.

In 1857 a colony of Connecticut people settled in this township, taking seven thousand acres. The following men composed the colony: R. A. Hungerford, S. K. Marston, Dr. Babcock, B. Marston, Edmond Havens, William S. Rossey, William Bentley, Daniel Hutchinson, Enoch Morgan, Moses Morgan, Theophilus Morgan, A. C. Maxon, Henry Dennis, Robert Eggleston, Samuel Birdsley, I. N. Newton, N. C. Ball, James Sellick, W. S. Larkin, Lyman Peck, Reuben R. Pearson. The first child born in the township was Rosa Bushor. The first marriage celebrated was in the spring of 1860. James Crow and Kate Birdsley were the contracting parties. The first death was Mrs. Henry Dennis, who was buried on the A. M. Peck farm, section 4.

A blacksmith shop was built on section 10, by Samuel Birdsley, at an early date.

The schoolhouse in district No. 9 was built in 1866, and Miss Anna Coswell was the first teacher.

The first teacher in school district No. 4 was Effie Maxon. In district 5, William W. Graham was the first teacher, and Mrs. S. K. Marston in school No. 1.

ROBERTS.

In 1873 the village suffered a severe loss by fire, but with true American enterprise the injured firms rebuilt and now the town is one of the most flourishing in the county.

The Methodist church was first started by a Mr. Pierce, a Welshman, who lived near Oliver's Grove and preached all over this section of the country in private houses and schoolhouses at an early day. The first preacher sent here by conference was a Mr. Henry in 1871. He preached in the Graham schoolhouse. A Sunday school was organized, with Mr. Van Steenbergh superintendent. Meetings were held in the schoolhouse in Roberts the following year. When the hall was built in 1875 services were held there until the

Methodist Episcopal church was dedicated January 22, 1882, by G. W. Gue, presiding elder.

The Congregational church was organized in 1875 under the name of the First Congregational church of Roberts. A Congregational church organization existed in this township as early as 1867. In 1875 two separate bodies grew out of the old one, one locating at Thawville, Iroquois county, and the other at Roberts. Services were held in the schoolhouse and town hall until 1879, when steps were taken to erect a house of worship, which was completed and dedicated during the summer of 1880.

A German Evangelical church is located on the northeast quarter of section 34, surrounded and supported by a thriving German settlement.

The following sketches are of early settlers, and some of the prominent business men who have lived in Lyman township:

SAMUEL LYMAN, the first settler, was born in Southampton, Massachusetts, July 16, 1811, and moved to Ford county, Illinois, in 1856. He bought two hundred and thirty acres on section 2, where he lived until 1869. He moved to Onarga, Iroquois county, and lived there until his wife died. He then came to Paxton and made his home with his son, Samuel B. Lyman, or "Burt" as he was familiarly called, who was sheriff of Ford county for eight years.

JAMES ROBERTS, farmer, was born in Sussex county, England, 1816. His father died when he was eight years old, leaving James to shift for himself and earn a penny at anything he could do. In 1843 he married Elizabeth Gilbert, of England, by whom he had three children. Mr. Robert came to this country in 1851, and to Lyman township, section 32, in 1858, becoming the owner of two hundred acres of land.

ALBERT M. HALING was born in Hartford county, Connecticut, September 30, 1820. He came to Lyman township in 1866, purchasing twelve hundred acres of land in fractional section 3, at eight dollars per acre. He made a resurvey of the section, calling it "Haling's Subdivision." He sold it in 1870 and bought four hundred and eighty acres in sections 10 and 11, where he erected the finest house in the township, which afterward belonged to J. L. Shorthose. Mr. Haling was married to Lucy A. Groves, of Ellington, Connecticut, by whom he had five children, namely: E. S., Frank W., Kate A., Clarence A. and Lucy A., all born in Connecticut. Mr. Haling was first town clerk and second supervisor of the township, and in 1874, was elected representative of the eighteenth congressional district of Illinois.

E. S. HALING was born in Hartford county, Connecticut, October 4, 1850, and came here with his father in April, 1866.

EDWARD VAN STEENBERGH, one of the most extensive farmers of this township, was born in Ulster county, New York, in 1814. He came to this township in 1871, settling on section 28, owning six hundred and forty acres, and annually shipped large quantities of hay to Chicago.

THE HURST FAMILY is among the earliest settlers of Lyman township. Joseph and Mary Hurst came to this country from England in 1847, settling in New Jersey, where Mr. Hurst died in 1849. Mrs. Mary Hurst came west and settled on section 30, this township. She died in 1875. Helen and Hannah (maiden ladies) afterward owned the old homestead. One of the children, Ann, lived in Gloucester, New Jersey.

WILLIAM HURST was born in 1838 and came to Ford county in 1855, becoming the owner of land in section 30. He married Mary, daughter of James Roberts.

JOSEPH HURST was born July 8, 1834, in Edgerton, England. Coming to this western country, he settled in Bureau county, where he lived for several years and married Miss Harriett Harvey, by whom he had ten children. Coming to Lyman township in 1858, he bought two sections of land from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, but poor crops and hard times came and Mr. Hurst became very poor. His main dependence was a shot-gun, which was taken from him on execution; the officer, repenting the act, returned the gun. Mr. Hurst often spoke of this, to show the contrast from that day to the day when he owned three hundred and twenty acres, one mile from Roberts, under excellent cultivation.

AMOS C. MAXON was born in the town of Lyme, state of Connecticut, in 1821. At the age of fourteen years, he went on board ship with Captain Chadwick, making three voyages a year for seven years. He came to Ford county in 1858, settling on section 14. He was married to Phoebe E. Pierson, of Connecticut, in 1851, and six children were born to them. Mr. Maxon was one of the colony that came to this county from Connecticut.

M. CASSINGHAM, M. D., was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, in 1841. In 1845, he came to Kendall county, Illinois, living there several years. He moved to Grundy county, and later to Ford county, settling at Roberts in 1871. He graduated from the Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1874. In 1862 he married Miss Ellen Cullen, of Canada.

ORA W. CASSINGHAM was born in Grundy county, Illinois, in 1854. He came to Roberts in 1880, to engage in the drug business with his brother, Dr. Cassingham. For several years he followed the map publishing business, meet-

ing with good success. September 26, 1883, he married Elmira, daughter of Lyeurgus Burns, of Roberts.

CHARLES O. HAYES, a native of Clinton county, New York, came to Kendall county, Illinois, in 1855, where he lived until 1861, then moved to McLean county. He came to Roberts and opened the Glencoe Hotel in 1881. He kept a good hotel and obtained a full share of the traveling public. In 1859 he was married to Lusina Alford, of Clinton county, New York, by whom he had four children.

CHRIS ANDERSON, a native of Scotland, bought a farm in this county in 1865. He farmed until 1872 and then went into partnership with J. A. Montelius and George Campbell. In 1874 Mr. Montelius sold out to the other partners, who continued doing a general merchandise and grain business. In 1876 George Campbell went to Piper City and engaged in the banking business, and Mr. Anderson remained in Roberts. In 1881 he bought out the banking business of J. B. Meserve. He was married to Mary Martin, of Marshall county, Illinois, by whom he had seven children, all girls.

WILLIAM B. FLORA was born in Campbell county, Kentucky, in 1844. In 1868 he settled in Iroquois county, Illinois. He opened a store in this place in 1872 and, in company with E. O. Newman, carried on a good mercantile business. In 1874 he married Mary Jane Newman, of Kentucky. They had five children. Later he moved to Paxton, where he is and has been county clerk for several years.

E. B. BEIGHLE was born in Butler county, Pennsylvania, February 14, 1836, and came to Lyman township in November, 1869.

WILLIAM HOUGH BOND and JAMES BOND were born in Manchester, England. William was born February 14, 1841, and James, February 11, 1844. William came to Lyman township in 1866, and soon afterward engaged in farming. They both became the owners of fine farms.

CHARLES RINGEISEN was born in Germany, July 25, 1844. He came to Ford county in 1881, and became an active farmer in Lyman township.

ARTHUR SWANICK was born in County Mayo, Ireland, September 16, 1832. He came to New York state in 1855; to Illinois in 1862; and to this township in 1872, becoming the owner of eighty acres in section 6.

PATRICK MCQUILLEN, a native of Ireland, came to Ford county in 1868, and settled in section 32, Lyman township.

JOHN HUMMEL was born in Germany, August 7, 1834. He emigrated to America and settled in Illinois in 1854; settled in Lyman township in 1869, and engaged in farming.

GEORGE E. REYNOLDS was born in Knox county, Illinois, November 12, 1859. He moved to Lyman township in the spring of 1881 and engaged in agricultural pursuits.

SAMUEL SHUTE was born in Gloucester county, New Jersey, October 19, 1821. He moved to this township in 1868 and became the owner of eight hundred and twenty acres.

JOHN ROBERTS was born March 23, 1835, in Sussex county, England. He came to this county in 1859 and settled on section 32, Lyman township.

NICHOLAS HUMMEL was born in Germany, September 18, 1836. He came to Lyman township and settled on section 5.

I. C. NEWMAN, a native of Madison county, Ohio, came to Illinois in 1852, and to this township in 1867, becoming the owner of a farm in section 8, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising.

ROBERT H. GRESHAM was born in Christian county, Kentucky, September 6, 1848. He came to this state in 1850, and to Ford county in 1882.

JOHN CRAWFORD was born in Albany county, New York, in 1841. He came to the state of Illinois in 1865, and to Ford county in 1871, where he became the owner of a good farm in section 2, Lyman township.

H. M. WILCOX was born in Stockbridge, Oneida county, New York. He left the state and came to Illinois in 1868, becoming the owner of a large farm and carrying on a dairy business.

JOHN COOK was born in Germany in 1843. He emigrated to America in 1867, and settled in Illinois in 1879, becoming the owner of a fine farm in section 13.

B. F. ILER was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, in 1848. He settled in Lyman township in 1874.

CHARLES FELLWOCK, a native of Germany, came to this country to better his condition. He settled in Ford county in 1867, becoming the owner of a good farm in section 35.

GEORGE MINCH was born in Tazewell county, Illinois, in 1847, where he lived until 1881, when he moved to Wall township, where he became the owner of the northeast quarter of section 3; also two hundred and forty acres on section 22, this township. He was married in 1869.

F. W. HALLING, traveling salesman, was born in Tolland county, Connecticut, January 13, 1854, and came to Illinois in April, 1866.

PRINCE TOBEY, born in New York state in 1820, came to Ford county, Illinois, in 1865.

MONA TOWNSHIP.

The township of Mona was set off from Rogers March 2, 1870, being the last township organized in the county. When first created, it was called Delhi, at the suggestion of Supervisor Bishop, of Brenton township, but several months after was changed to Mona, at the request of the citizens of the township.

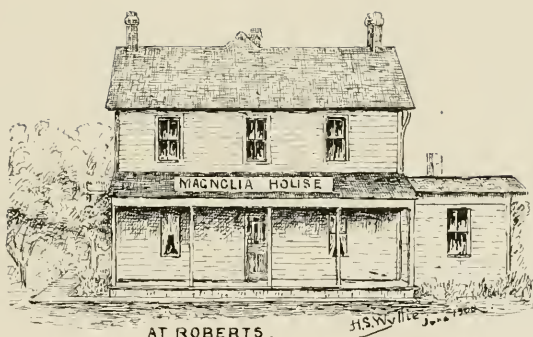
It was so named because many of the inhabitants of said township were natives of the Isle of Man. Through the kindness of David Keighin, we will give a brief sketch of that lonely island:

The Isle of Man is situated in the Irish sea, nearly equi-distant from the three surrounding countries. Its area is about two hundred and twenty square miles. Two-thirds of the island consists of arable and meadow land, and the remainder of heath and moor. The climate is highly salubrious, being exempt from oppressive heats in summer and frosts in winter. The commerce is not great; the chief article of export is fish (herring) bringing in a clever revenue of forty thousand pounds a year. The language of the island is one of the three dialects of Celtic, which still continues to be spoken there. It is similar to the Irish; therefore, the natives of Ireland, the highlanders of Scotland and the Manksman have little difficulty in understanding each other. The island is divided into six manors, and these subdivided into seventeen parishes. The island obtained its name from the original founder and legislator of the island, Mannanan MacLer; the name being contracted to Mannin, and in later years to Mann. Mona, with which Mann is often confounded, is rather a description of the island, than a name. Mona signifies isolated or lonely, and was doubtless applied to the isle by the inhabitants of surrounding countries.

Mona township is bounded on the north by Rogers township, on the east by Iroquois county, south by the township of Pella, and west by Livingston county. It is a congressional township, being six miles square. The north half is a fine body of undulating prairie land, settled by an excellent class of intelligent farmers.

The southwest part of the township is low, level land with deep soil, and in dry seasons capable of raising large crops of corn, while the remainder of the township is covered over with a large marsh, called the Vermilion swamps. A great part of this has been drained.

The first settler in Mona was Matthew Faddling, who came here a great many years ago, and settled on section 5. Among the early settlers may be mentioned Jacob Holderman, Louis Falter, Sr., Wright Kemp, M. C. Lewis, Daniel Morrical, Thomas Kelly, John Looney, Thomas Heavysides, Robert



AT ROBERTS.

Lewin, Samuel Dowse, William Cowley, George Sherman, John and William Dancer and Henry Benson.

The first town meeting was held at the house of Thomas Kelly, at which time David Keighin was elected supervisor.

The first schoolhouse was built on the northwest quarter of section 32, Belle Hose being the first teacher. Schools Nos. 3 and 5 were started about the same time.

In the spring of 1867 fourteen new dwelling houses were being built in the township at the same time.

The first postoffice was at the house of John F. Bute, named Sugar Loaf, the mail coming from Clifton.

The first religious services in the township were held in school No. 3. The Sunday school was started by George Sherman, who was the superintendent for seven years.

The town hall on the southeast corner of section 8 was built for the purpose of holding religious, political, social and literary meetings. In 1876, a literary society was organized with John A. Scott, president; David Keighin, vice president; A. Anderson, secretary; and M. A. Dinsmore, treasurer, the central object being to cultivate a taste for literature among the residents of the township. The exercises of the Mona Literary Society were somewhat varied; the main object being the improvement of the social condition of the community. Their efforts were ably seconded by other districts of Ford and adjoining counties, and liberal donations were received from Paxton, Piper City, Clifton and other towns.

The society flourished until the village of Kempton was started in the northwest corner of the township, which drew away some of the citizens and much of the interest that centered at the hall.

The first preaching in the township was at the Bute schoolhouse, by Rev. M. C. Lewis, a Methodist preacher. The society then numbered fourteen members.

In 1881 the society erected a church in Kempton under the supervision of Rev. Joe Bell, pastor, and A. Stuart, R. F. Bell and James Kemp, trustees. The new church was dedicated the 28th of April, 1882, by Rev. B. F. Tallman. R. F. Bell was appointed the first superintendent of the Sunday school.

KEMPTON.

Kempton is the only village in the township, a station on the Kankakee & Southwestern Railroad. It was laid out in 1878 by Wright Kemp. The rail-

road company called their station Kempton, in honor of Mr. Kemp, who rendered them excellent service in securing the right of way for the railroad across the township.

J. W. Brown built the first frame house in the village.

J. E. Seyster was the first station agent.

The following is a brief mention of some of the early settlers and leading men who lived in Mona township:

DAVID KEIGHIN, a native of the Isle of Man, came to Tennessee in 1848, and to this township from Peoria in 1869. He became the owner of a fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres on section 11. In connection with his farm, he, with his son Charles, engaged in the grain business in Kempton. Mr. Keighin was elected the first supervisor of Mona, which office he held for several years.

THOMAS KELLY came from the Isle of Man in the spring of 1849, in the same ship with David Keighin. He moved to this township in 1867, coming from Galva, Henry county. In reviewing the lives of successful men, how true do we find in nearly every instance, that hard work, economy and industry have laid the foundation of future prosperity. Mr. Kelly was no exception to this rule, and after hard work, acquired six hundred and forty acres of land.

JOSEPH MCKINNEY, a son of Archibald McKinney, is one of the early settlers of Brenton township. Mr. McKinney came to Kempton in 1880, and bought out the hardware store and lumberyard of John McKinney, who afterward engaged in business in Piper City.

SAMUEL DOWSE came to this township in 1868, settling on section 8. He became the owner of three hundred and sixty acres of fine land, with good improvements. He was assessor for six years, and also held the office of justice of the peace.

LOUIS FALTER, JR., was born in Ohio. He came to Mona township in 1869. He became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres on section 4.

JOHN LOONEY, a native of the Isle of Man, became the owner of two hundred and forty acres of excellent land.

JOHN A. SCOTT, a native of Washington county, Pennsylvania, came to this township in 1870, and settled on section 9.

HENRY BENSON left England in 1854 and came to Kendall county, Illinois, then to this township in 1867, settling on section 1.

JOHN AND WILLIAM DANCER came from Will county before the township was settled, with large droves of cattle to herd on the Vermilion swamps during

the summer. They herded as many as a thousand head that were placed under their care in a season. In 1873 they came here to live and became the owners of four hundred and eighty acres of land. John Danceer was one of the drainage commissioners of the special Vermilion ditch.

FRANK DRENDEL was born in Germany in 1838. He came to the United States in 1865, and to section 21, Mona township, in 1868.

ROBERT LEWIN, a native of the Isle of Man, came here in 1868, and became the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of land.

DANIEL MORRICAL was born in Laurel Hill, Virginia, in 1836. He moved to Ohio, then lived in Indiana twenty-two years, and finally settled in Ford county in 1869. He held the office of justice of the peace, and was school director for several years.

GEORGE ESSINGTON, a native of England, came to this township in 1871, settling on section 1.

JOHN SUTTON was born in England in 1835. He left there in 1858, settling first in New York state, then moved to Grundy county, Illinois, where he remained some ten years. He enlisted in the Ninety-first Illinois Regiment, and was in the service three years. He moved to section 3, Mona township, in 1869.

JOHN THORNDYKE was born in England. He came to this township from Grundy county, in 1882, becoming the owner of the northwest quarter in section 31.

JAMES E. FARLEY was born in Pennsylvania, and came here in 1875, becoming the owner of two hundred and forty acres on section 5. At one time he was assessor.

JAMES KEMP was born in Kendall county, Illinois, in 1853, being the son of Wright Kemp who afterward moved to Kankakee City.

ROGERS TOWNSHIP.

Rogers township is the extreme north township of the county, bounded on the north by Kankakee county, on the east by Iroquois, on the south by Mona township and on the west by Livingston county.

It derived its name from Jeremy W. Rogers, its first supervisor. This township was originally called Grant, and when organized composed the present townships of Mona and Rogers.

A petition from the citizens of Grant to the board of supervisors to change the name to Rogers was granted in the spring of 1864.

This is considered the best township in the county, with at least seventy-five per cent of the area, suitable and adapted to farming purposes, that can be made to produce excellent crops.

It is peopled with industrious, enterprising and progressive farmers, showing many well improved farms.

Among the early settlers were Jeremy W. Rogers, William Atherton, Jared Williams, James Clayton, Henry Clayton, John Clayton, William Clayton, Mary Clayton, James Taylor, Edward Clayton, Samuel Clayton, Peter Taylor, David Rogers, A. Saddler, Peter Minich, Abraham Cook, D. and S. Burroughs, William Bouk, N. Wagner, Samuel C. Farley, Charles Shumacher, Wright Kemp, George Hargreaves, Jacob Hare, J. C. Eldridge, E. Quayle, D. F. Brenisa, D. B. Case and J. Broadbent.

The first church built in the township was the Catholic church in Cabery.

The next church was built at Eldridgeville by the Methodists.

In 1873 the Germans erected a chapel on Henry Clayton's land, called The Church of God. J. M. Castle was the first German preacher.

The first postoffice was at Eldridgeville, with John Eldridge as postmaster, although at an early date the farmers took turns in bringing the mail from Dwight, which was left at Jared Williams' house.

The first schoolhouse was built on the farm owned by George Riggs and Miss Laura Cook, who afterward became Mrs. Charles Bouk, was the first teacher.

CABERY.

Cabery is the principal village in Rogers township, situated on the middle division of the Illinois Central or Kankakee & South Western Railroad. It lies on the county line, the largest half in Rogers township, which was first laid out. It was incorporated as a village in the fall of 1881 and contains stores of various kinds and a newspaper called the Cabery Enterprise. There is a public hall and one Masonic hall. The place is a wide-awake, go-ahead one, containing a class of good citizens, who heartily unite upon any enterprise or improvement for the public good.

The supervisors of the township have been Jeremy W. Rogers, 1864; John C. Eldridge, 1866; D. B. Case, 1867; Edward Clayton, 1868; Thomas Winstanley, 1872; Samuel Clayton, 1873; James Ogilvie, 1876; W. B. Sargeant, 1881; re-elected 1882 and 1883.

The following is a brief mention of some of the old settlers who have lived and are still living in Rogers township:

PETER TAYLOR, a native of Morgan county, Ohio, came to Rogers township in 1865, settling on section 35.

FRANK M. COOK was born at Elkhart county, Indiana. He came to this township in 1864, settling on a fine farm one mile from Cabery.

JAMES OGILVIE, a native of Licking county, Ohio, coming to this township in 1866; he settled on section 22.

SAMUEL CLAYTON, a native of England, came to Rogers township in 1865, settling on section 33.

JAMES CLAYTON, a native of Chester, England, came to this country in 1849, and to Rogers township in 1868, settling on a fine farm in section 31. He laid out a part of the village of Kempton, called Clayton's Addition.

DAVID HUNTLEY, a native of New York, came to this township in 1859, and became the owner of two hundred and forty acres in Ford county, and eighty acres, the home place, just over the line in Livingston county.

GEORGE HARGREAVES was born in England, coming to America in 1854; he first settled in Kendall county, Illinois. In 1867 he moved to this township, settling on section 36.

W. B. SARGEANT, a native of England, came to Cabery in 1865, being engaged in the hardware business.

JAMES F. WRIGHT was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1840. He came to Cabery in 1876 and engaged in the lumber business.

ANDREW STUART, a farmer, native of Canada, settled in Grundy county, Illinois in 1843. He enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois Volunteers in 1862, remaining in the field until the war was over.

JOSHUA HENTHON came to this county from England in 1856. He settled on section 28, Rogers township. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of good land from the Illinois Central Railroad Company.

FRANK McLAUGHLIN was born in Grundy county in 1853. He came to this township in 1880. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Clayton, in 1874.

FRANK STUART, son of Andrew Stuart, was born in Livingston county in 1856. He married Alice, a daughter of Henry Clayton.

JOHN AND ALFRED CLAYTON, sons of Henry Clayton, were born in Chester county, Pennsylvania. John came to this township in 1865, and Alfred in 1868, both owning homes on section 25.

CHARLES CURD was born in the county of Kent, England. He came to America in 1846 and to section 20, this township in 1876.

WILLIAM NAAS, a native of Germany, came to this township in 1870, locating on section 29.

In 1865, MRS. PRISCILLA TAYLOR, widow of James Taylor, deceased, together with Samuel and Edward Clayton, Peter Taylor and others, came from Ohio to Rogers township, Mrs. Taylor with her children, residing on section 35.

MRS. ELIZABETH CLAYTON, widow of William Clayton, an early settler, came to Rogers township from Noble county, Ohio, residing in a beautiful home on their farm on section 27.

FIRE AT CABERY IN 1885.

On Sunday morning, May 3, 1885, Cabery was visited by a disastrous fire, and the town was almost obliterated by the flames. Twenty-four business houses and fourteen dwellings went up in smoke. The total loss was estimated at one hundred thousand dollars, with about twenty-five thousand dollars insurance. The village was without fire protection, and no aid from other towns could be secured in time to stay the devouring flames. The fire originated in a millinery store at 3 o'clock in the morning. Several guests were in the Commercial Hotel, which was destroyed, and barely escaped with their lives.

PEACH ORCHARD TOWNSHIP.

September 15, 1868, a petition was presented to the board of supervisors, asking their aid in creating a new township out of the township of Dix, composed and described as the east two-thirds of the north half of town 24 north, and the south half of town 25 north, in range 8 east, "and on motion of Supervisor Davis, it was ordered by the board that said territory be and is hereby set off in accordance with the prayer of said petition; and it is further ordered that the territory set off shall be known and designated as Peach Orchard."

In 1855 Joshua T. Nicholson planted one thousand peach trees on the southwest quarter of section 21, town 25 north, range 8 east. This large orchard was cultivated for about twelve years, when the trees died and were never replaced. This is how the township came to be named Peach Orchard.

William B. Holmes, Joshua T. Nicholson, Elick Nicholson, Alexander Nicholson and David Spencer were the early settlers of this township until the fall of 1867, when the township was rapidly settled up. Among those coming were John Iehl, the Hunt family, G. and J. Dixon, John Wilson, Joshua Umbarger, John Conniff, W. B. Knight, George and William Foster, G. and O. Defriese, A. Hellman, Joseph Fletcher, John and William Boundy, Robert Ashley, P. Brady, William Underwood, Michael Schilts, Ed McKanna, Henry



AT MELVIN

Rowcliff, George and T. Arends, Charles Gardner, Isaac C. Day, T. D. Thompson, William Frazius, William Lackey, George Phillips, Lot Robb, T. and J. McLaughlin and John Thackery.

The first school building in this township was the "Grand Prairie" (No. 8), although a year or so before this was built an old building was moved into the township from Wall and used for school purposes. It was called the "Black College." The first teacher was Robert Hutelinson.

The first marriage occurred in this township in 1857, the contracting parties being Elick Nicholson and Miss Margaret Scott. Charles Rodenhour was the first person who died. He was buried on section 3, in the fall of 1858.

On May 29th, 1857, Miss Fanny A. Holmes, daughter of Squire Holmes, was born, the first child in Peach Orchard. She became the wife of Paul Keostner.

This township has a railroad diagonally across it, originally known as the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield, now the Springfield Division of the Illinois Central. The township took twenty-three thousand dollars of stock, issuing bonds therefor for twenty years, drawing ten per cent interest. The road was completed in 1871 and trains were running that winter.

D. K. Pearson, of Chicago, owned the east tier of sections in this township, and one day in November he came down here and sold the entire tier of sections; the average price paid was eight dollars and fifty cents per acre.

MELVIN.

Melvin, named after the president of the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield Railroad, is the only village in the township. It was surveyed and laid out at the request of Enoch Hunt, and includes about sixty-five acres. It is situated on the south half of the northwest quarter of section 1, and contains a fine school building.

T. D. Thompson was the first station agent, and built the first house in the village.

John Lyer was the first postmaster and opened the first general store in the village.

In 1905 a graded school building was erected at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars.

The following is a brief mention of the early settlers and leading citizens who have lived in Peach Orchard township:

WILLIAM B. HOLMES was born in England in 1820. He emigrated to America in 1849, landing in New York. He went to Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, where he remained about three years. He then moved to Georgetown, Vermilion county, Illinois, and worked at the carpenter's trade for several years, then moved to what is now Peach Orchard township in April, 1855, settling on a farm which he afterward owned. He built the first house and turned the first furrow in this township. In 1860 the Prince of Wales' suite—Captain Carter, Hon. C. A. Ellis, now Duke of Rutland, and a German connected with the Royal family, with their servants,—were in this part of the country hunting and spent several days with Mr. Holmes. He was married December 26, 1844, to Miss Eliza Wren, of Yorkshire, England. Mr. Holmes had the office of supervisor, assessor and justice of the peace.

THOMAS D. THOMPSON was born in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1847, where he resided until 1864. He then moved to Illinois, and in 1868 settled in Ford county and was the first station agent at Melvin. He engaged in the grocery and dry-goods business and was postmaster of Melvin. Mr. Thompson always took a lively interest in the building up of the churches and schools in this place. Later, he moved to Paxton, where he is and has been circuit clerk for a number of years.

ENOCH S. HUNT was born in Marshall county, Illinois, in 1833. He moved to La Salle county in 1847, and lived there until 1868, when he moved to Ford county. In 1854 he was married to Miss Mary Griffen. Mr. Hunt was instrumental in starting the village of Melvin and in securing the railroad across the township.

WILLIAM S. LARKIN was born in Rhode Island, March 5, 1826. He came to Ford county from Connecticut in 1857, settling in Lyman township. Afterward he engaged in business with his son-in-law in Melvin.

EDWARD S. JENKINS was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania, July 4, 1842. He moved to Marshall county, Illinois, in 1849, where he lived on a farm until the breaking out of the Civil war. He enlisted in the Ninth Illinois Infantry, remaining in the service until the war closed, when he was honorably discharged and returned to his farm. He married Miss Sarah Robinson, of Canada, and moved to Peach Orchard township. After farming for several years, he moved to Melvin and opened a meat market.

AUGUSTUS P. GOULD was born in Kendall county, Illinois, October 5, 1848. He lived there until 1858, when he moved to Dwight, Livingston county, farming, attending school and clerking in a store until eighteen years passed away,

when he moved to Melvin and built and opened a store of general merchandise. He was married, October 16, 1878, to Maggie E. Wolverton, of Pontiac.

EDWARD G. COLLINS, born in Herkimer county, New York, September 22, 1851. His parents died when he was a young man. After learning the harnessmaker's trade and being anxious to establish himself in business, came west and settled in Melvin, where he carried on business with success. In 1876 he was married to Martha M. Shute.

JOHN S. HUNT came to this place in 1867, becoming the owner of a fine farm of six hundred acres. He was first collector of the township, also served two terms as supervisor and was school director for many years. He was one of the trustees of the Methodist church, to which he contributed largely. He always took an active part in all affairs of school, church or township.

JOHN IEHL was born in the province of Alsace, France, in 1839. When eleven years old he, with his parents, came to America and settled in Lake county, Illinois, and engaged in farming. When he became of age he started in life for himself, going to Marshall county, Illinois, and working on a farm. In 1867 he bought the northwest quarter of section 28, Peach Orchard, and farmed it until 1873, when he bought the grain elevator in Melvin and carried on the grain business with great success. In 1871 he married Miss Mary Arends. In 1881 Mr. Iehl was elected supervisor of the township, which office he held for several years.

W. T. GASH was born in England, June 3, 1837, where he lived until he was twenty-one years old, then came to America and began farming in Henry county, Illinois. In 1869 he came to Peach Orchard and located in section 23. In 1874 he married Miss Sarah A. Bevins.

JOSIAH UMBARGER, a native of Pennsylvania, was born in 1834, and at the age of ten years came west with his parents to Putnam county, Illinois. In 1860 he married Miss Jane Allen.

GERHARD DEFRIES was born in Germany in 1827. At the age of twenty-seven years he came to America and landed in New Orleans. He bought a farm in Peach Orchard in the spring of 1868. In 1857 he married Miss Hissky Hilmers, by whom he had eight children.

HENRY ROWCLIFFE was born in England in 1843. He settled in Ford county in 1869, on section 33. In 1859 he married Martha Dunn, of England. His second wife was Sarah Bell.

WILLIAM COOPER was born in England in 1830. He came to America in 1862. He learned the tailoring trade. He came to Peach Orchard township

from Fairbury, Illinois, and went to farming. In 1855 he married Miss Elizabeth Cole, by whom he had seven children.

WILLIAM BOUNDY was born in England, October 30, 1832. He emigrated to America in 1857, first settling in New York state. He came to Peach Orchard township from Peoria county, Illinois, in 1871. He was married to Elizabeth Hill, of England, March 27, 1853, by whom he has six children.

WILLIAM FOSTER was born in Rochester county, New York, in 1833. He came west and settled in Ford county in 1865. He was married in 1859 to Miss Sarah Gill.

JOHN KARSTEN, a native of Germany, where he worked on a farm for twenty-four years, came to America in 1866 and settled in Marshall county, Illinois. In 1876 he came to Peach Orchard township. In 1867 he was married to Sophia Hose. He became the owner of two hundred acres of land, finely improved.

A. BUCKHOLZ, a native of Germany, who came to this country in 1852, working at various places for a number of years. He finally settled in section 1, in 1867. In 1855 he married Miss Caroline Funte, by whom he had eight children. He became the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of land in this township, with excellent improvements.

HENRY SPELLMEYER was born in Germany, 1840. He emigrated to America with his sister in 1858, first settling in Marshall county; then, in 1868, came to Peach Orchard township. In 1868 he married Miss Louisa Steinman, by whom he had five children.

JOHN THACKERY was born in England, 1834, where he lived until 1865. When he came to this country and settled in Putnam county, Illinois, where he lived for several years. He then came to Ford county and located in this township. In March, 1865, he married Catharine Phillips, by whom he had six children. Mr Thackery became the owner of four hundred and eighty acres of good land in Peach Orchard.

WILLIAM D. SPENCER, son of David Spencer, who was born in Vermont in 1811 and came to Vermilion county, Illinois, in 1841, and bought four hundred acres of land, which he worked several years, then moved to Georgetown, same county, and engaged in stock-raising, which he followed for a time. In the spring of 1855 he settled in Peach Orchard. He died in 1857. Our subject was born in 1855, in Georgetown, Vermilion county, Illinois, and came with his parents to this township. He was married to Miss Emma J. Terry, of St. Louis. Afterward Mr. Spencer prepared himself for the ministry.

THOMAS McLAUGHLIN was born in the north of Ireland in 1829. He emigrated to America in 1848, when he settled on a farm in La Salle county, Illinois, and lived there for six years, then came to this township. He became the owner of the southeast quarter of section 36, one-half mile from Melvin.

GEORGE F. FORNEY was born in Putnam county, Illinois, in 1845. At the age of twenty-two years he married Eliza S. Allen, of Pennsylvania, by whom he had four children. He settled in Peach Orchard township in 1870. He was town clerk for three years.

PETER CONNIFF was born in Ireland. At the age of six years he came to America with his mother and settled on a farm in New Jersey. He remained in that state about twenty years, then came to Henry county, Illinois. He settled in this township in 1857. In 1861 he enlisted in the Fourth New Jersey Regiment and was in the service until the close of the war.

DAVID THOMPSON was born in Belmont county, Ohio, in 1841. In 1863 he enlisted in the Seventh Illinois Volunteers. He settled in Ford county in 1869, on section 23. He married Margaret Frazer in 1865.

JAMES DIXON was born in Manchester, England, in 1836. In 1861 he enlisted in the Seventeenth Illinois Volunteers and remained in the service until 1863, when he was honorably discharged and returned to Marshall county, Illinois. In 1867 he married Miss Jane E. Hunt, by whom he had seven children.

PATRICK GOGGINS, a native of the Emerald isle, came to America in 1846 and first settled in La Salle county, Illinois. After living there twelve years, he moved to Ford county. He married Miss Catharine Clark in 1863, and to them were born three children.

W. J. HUNT was born in Marshall county, Illinois, in 1841. He remained there twenty-one years, working on his father's farm, then moved to La Salle county, Illinois. In 1861 he enlisted in the One Hundred and Fourth Illinois Regiment and was in the service several years. He then returned to his old home in La Salle county, where he remained until 1872, when he moved to Peach Orchard township.

JOHN M. THOMPSON was born in Noble county, Ohio, April, 1837. He lived there several years, then settled in Belmont county and taught school for four years; also attended the academy at Belmont. In 1864 he settled in Grundy county, Illinois, remaining there a short time, then moved to Marshall county, and after living there three years he went to Woodford county and bought a farm and worked it for four years. He then sold out and came to Peach Orchard township in the fall of 1872, and engaged in general merchandising. He soon sold out to his brother and engaged in the sale of agricultural

implements and lumber. In 1861 he was married to Miss Jane Day, of Belmont county, Ohio.

SULLIVANT TOWNSHIP.

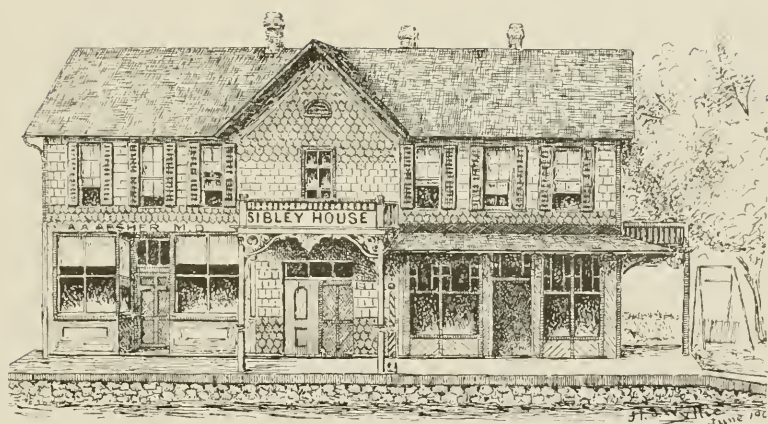
This township was organized September 9, 1867. It originally formed a part of Dix township, and upon a petition being presented to the board of supervisors at their September meeting, in 1867, "to create a new town out of that part of Dix, to be known as Sullivant," they granted the petition, and Sullivant township was formed. This township is six miles north and south and nine miles east and west. The land is the highest in the state between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi river, as will be seen by the map, showing that many streams have their source in this part of the state. The soil is of good quality.

The history of this township can be nothing else but the history of a farm, for that is what it was. Most of the land in this township was entered or purchased by Michael L. Sullivant during 1854, who improved the land and operated it as an immense corn farm up to 1876, when he disposed of it to Mr. Hiram Sibley, of Rochester, New York. This was undoubtedly the largest corn farm in the world under one man's management. He was a leading man in the township, and lived in a beautiful grove called Burr Oaks, near the center of the township. After Mr. Sibley took possession of the farm he rented out most of the land, and for the accommodation of his renters, erected substantial dwelling houses on nearly every quarter section.

SIBLEY.

This beautiful village, originally named Burr Oaks, is situated on the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railroad. The original town of Burr Oaks was surveyed and laid out by John R. Lewis, in February, 1877, for M. L. Sullivant, in the northwest quarter of section 32. In 1880, Sibley's addition was laid off, and the name changed to Sibley to conform with the railroad station and the postoffice. But few buildings had been erected here previous to 1878, when Mr. Sibley organized a system of improvements, and a number of dwelling houses were erected, a hotel, the largest and best in the county at that time, a large seed barn, flax mill, stores, offices and numerous other buildings. A large commodious grain elevator was erected by Mr. Sullivant.

The beautiful schoolhouse, which is the pride of the town, was erected in 1882, at a cost of six thousand dollars.



Although a town of but a few years' growth, the enterprise of its people is shown by the graded streets, good sidewalks, a park and hundreds of trees.

BRENTON TOWNSHIP.

This township was at one time a part of Stockton township, the latter being organized when Ford was a part of Vermilion county, and at that time comprised the present townships of Rogers, Mona, Pella, Brenton and Lyman.

The name of Stockton was changed to Brenton March 7, 1864, and embraced the townships of Lyman, Brenton and Pella. As the country became more thickly settled, Lyman and Pella were set off, leaving the present township of Brenton, which comprises thirty-six sections of land.

In 1856, John R. Lewis, Mark Parsons and S. Standish were the first permanent settlers of the township. Mr. Lewis built the first house in the township, on the northwest corner of section 22. In the fall of 1856, Peter Van Antwerp, George Benford, W. T. Reed, John E. Davis, T. W. Pope, Frederick Chambers, the Jeffreys and A. J. Bartlett came. In 1857, came the Cross and McKinney families, Ira Z. Condon, W. W. Wieks, Aaron Schofield and Conrad Volp. In 1858, Joseph Davis, L. T. Bishop, Thomas Hahn, Jacob Titus, Merritt Free, Peter Rouse and Benjamin Hobbs, settled here. In 1860 came William L. Conrow, M. P. Sherwood, James Free, T. Jones, and in 1863, Jacob Lippencott, W. S. Thompson, Henry Patterson, Robert Wilson, D. E. Middleton and Joseph Carpenter.

The settlers of the township were nearly all eastern men.

The first birth in Brenton was Hattie B., daughter of A. J. Bartlett, on the 14th of June, 1857. The second birth was a son of John R. Lewis, August 4; and, August 26, Mark Parsons was blessed with a son.

The first death was Captain Mack, who, with his young wife, came to Illinois from the east in search of a better climate for his health, but, growing worse instead of better, he sold out his property to W. W. Wieks and started for his eastern home. He got as far as Onarga, where he died and was buried. The first marriage in the new settlement was in 1859, between Charles Phelps and Miss Mary A. Davis.

The first school was started by John R. Lewis, and taught by Miss Annie E. Hobbs, of Onarga, who remained a teacher for a number of years.

The first election after Brenton was organized was held at district school-house No. 1 (the Wagner school).

There were regular religious meetings held at settlers' houses every Sunday, being conducted principally by A. McKinney, Robert Hall and Henry Atwood.

The following are the names of those who went from the Pan Handle to the Civil war and returned safely: A. S. Bayouse, Fred Foot, Henry Phelps, R. A. Pope, Robert Ferris, Jacob Brown, Ed Kent, Mr. Stoneback, James Feeley, H. Eccleston, D. Kingsley, Morris Burt, John Haven, Ed Haven, Albert Holmes, B. Lyman.

Killed or missing, Thomas Hahn and Joseph Law.

The first schoolhouse built was the Wagner schoolhouse, in the southeast quarter of section 28.

The railroad through this township was built in 1857, first called the eastern extension of the Peoria & Oquawka Railroad, afterward the Logansport, Peoria & Burlington, then shortly after changed to the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw, and now the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railroad. It runs in an east and west direction across the north tier of sections of this township.

PIPER CITY.

Piper City is the principal village in the Pan Handle, and the third village in population in Ford county. It was laid out in section 4, Brenton township, by H. J. Howe, county surveyor, for Dr. William A. Piper, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Samuel Cross, of Chicago, in 1867. The village lies on both sides of the Wabash Railroad.

John Allen and W. C. Jones opened the first store in the new village in the summer of 1867.

Soon after Dr. Piper and J. A. Montelius opened a general store. The postoffice was established in John R. Lewis' house, and he was appointed first postmaster. The first station agent was John Allen. The station was then called New Brenton. The United Presbyterian church was built in 1869. The next one erected was the Presbyterian in 1872. The Catholic church was built in 1880, and the Methodist in 1881.

Mrs. McElhiney taught the first school in Piper City in the building afterward occupied as an office by Montelius & Brother.

The Piper City Dairy Association was incorporated in 1881, with Joseph Burger, president; J. A. Montelius, secretary and treasurer; E. H. Brooks, manager; and Joseph Burger, J. A. Montelius, E. H. Brooks, John McKinney, Columbus Jennings, John Clark and B. F. Church, directors.

The following are sketches of the early settlers and business men who lived in Brenton township:

JOHN R. LEWIS was born in Herkimer county, New York, June 6, 1828, where he lived until April 16, 1850. He spent his childhood years upon a farm and attending school. One of his schoolmates was the Hon. A. H. Prescott, at one time judge of Herkimer county, New York. Mr. Lewis taught school several winters, and then came west in 1856, and settled in this township, being the first permanent settler. Mark Parsons came one day later. Mr. Lewis practically sold most of the lands in Brenton and Pella townships as agent for the Illinois Central Railroad lands. He was the first justice of the peace, first police magistrate, third supervisor and first postmaster of Piper City.

The second permanent settler of Brenton was MARK PARSONS, who was born in Bennington, Vermont, May 13, 1823, where he lived until seventeen years of age, working on a farm in the summer, and attending school during the winter. When about twenty-three years old, he married Miss Jane E. Crossett, and with his young wife, moved to Will county, Illinois. In 1856, he came to Ford county and settled in this township. He built his house on the southwest quarter of section 34.

ARCHIBALD MCKINNEY was born in Ireland May 2, 1802, where he lived until 1848, when he emigrated to America and settled in Philadelphia. He worked in a factory there for ten years. In 1858, he came to Ford county, settling on section 20 of this township. Mr. McKinney was married in 1832.

JOHN MCKINNEY, son of Archibald McKinney, was born in Ireland in 1833. He came to this country with his parents in 1848. Mr. McKinney learned the carpenter's trade, and worked at it for many years. When Piper City was started, he moved from his home in Brenton township and went into the lumber business, and in course of time started a hardware store.

WILLIAM CARPENTER was born in Rhode Island February 22, 1811, where he lived continuously for fifteen years; then moved to Herkimer county, New York. Here he lived until 1867; then moved to Ford county, and settled in Brenton township. In 1833 he married Ann Eliza Randall, a native of Rhode Island.

ABNER McLAUGHLIN came to this township in 1861, and settled on section 5. In 1865 he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret McKinney, daughter of Archibald McKinney, an old settler of this township. Mr. McLaughlin used to teach school in winter and work on his farm in the summer. He was school treasurer for many years, and always took an active interest in all public enterprises.

SAMUEL D. CULBERTSON, physician and surgeon, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, September 5, 1839. Here he lived for twelve years, attending school and helping on a farm. When eighteen years old, he began teaching school, and taught until the Civil war broke out, when he joined the army. After the war, he began the study of medicine, and in 1866 graduated from the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He came to Piper City in 1867, and began the practice of his chosen profession, in which he met with success. He also engaged in the drug business. Dr. Culbertson was married in 1866 to Miss Clara Kate Culver.

JOSEPH BURGER was born in Baden, Germany. He came to this county in 1868, settling on section 2, this township.

JOHN C. CULVER was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, in May, 1848. In 1865, he went to Cincinnati, thence to Leavenworth, Kansas, and to the Indian territory, riding pony express from Fort Wallis to Denver; then was government scout through southern Kansas, Indian Territory and New Mexico. He served under William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) he being the chief scout. After being there several years, he came back and settled in Piper City, and went into the drug business. In 1880 he sold out and engaged in the grain business in this village. Mr. Culver was coroner of Ford county for two years. In 1872, he married Clara D. Fairley, of Lyman township.

JAMES P. McDANIEL was born in Butler county, Ohio, where he lived until ten years old; then he came with his parents to Illinois. In 1862, he married Miss Kate Huddleson, of Randolph county, Illinois. When he came to Piper City, he engaged in the hardware and furniture business. He soon sold out, and began farming and teaching. He was town clerk for many years.

HENRY ALLNUTT, a native of England, was publisher and proprietor of the Piper City Advertiser. He came to Ford county, and located on a farm in Pella township in 1869. In 1873 he moved to town, and soon started the Advertiser. He married Adda, daughter of Joseph Carpenter.

EPHRIAM H. BROOKS was born in Steuben county, New York, in 1837, where he lived for eleven years; then moved to Livingston county, New York, where he attended school and helped in his father's store until 1857, when he came to Woodford county, Illinois. In the spring of 1861 he settled in Brenton township, section 6, and began farming. When he came to Piper City he began work in the creamery, and afterward was manager. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Russell in 1868.

CONRAD ROHRBACK, a native of Germany, where he was born February 27, 1821. He lived there until thirteen years old, then came to this country and



AT PIPER CITY

settled in Tazewell county, Illinois, where he remained for about fifteen years. In 1859, he located on section 26, Brenton township. In 1843 he married Annie May Dingledine.

JAMES MCBRIDE, farmer, was born in Ireland in 1842; soon after, he came with his parents to Belmont county, Ohio, where he lived until the breaking out of the Civil war, when he enlisted and served until its close. He was honorably discharged at Washington, District of Columbia, and returned to the peaceful pursuits of a farmer's life. In the spring of 1869 he came to Ford county, and settled on section 31, on a fine farm of four hundred acres. In 1869 he married Miss Clara Strank.

MICHAEL CROSS was born in England in 1830. He remained there for twenty-four years, working at the blacksmith trade. In 1854 he came to America, and two years later settled in this township, residing on section 18. He was married in 1867 to Catharine Mitchinson.

WILLIAM COREY, stock-raiser and farmer, was born in Washington county, Rhode Island, in 1824. He came to La Salle county in 1865, and to Brenton township in 1867, and settled on the northwest quarter of section 17. In 1859 he married Miss Ruth Wileox.

THOMAS CUE, a native of England, where he was born August 12, 1836. In 1853 he came to America, and settled in Woodford county, Illinois. He lived there until 1870, when he came and settled in Brenton township. In 1871 he was united in marriage with Victoria Arrowsmith.

JOHN C. STEEN was born in Adams county, Ohio, in 1837. In 1863 he moved to La Salle county, Illinois, where he remained several years; then moved to Chatsworth, and in 1873 came to Brenton township, and settled on section 15.

JOHN GOODMAN was born in Huntingshire, England, July, 1818. He came to this country in 1852, and settled in Erie county, Ohio; after living there four years, he moved to Ford county, Illinois, and settled on section 30. In 1852, he married Sarah Bellamy, of England.

BANKS.

John A. Montelius established his bank in Piper City in 1870. The personnel of the bank's directory was as follows, with no change up to this time: John A. Montelius, John McKinney, J. K. Montelius, R. A. Jennings, James McBride, J. A. Cook, D. A. Boal, Abner McLaughlin, W. O. McKinney. Capital, fifty thousand dollars; surplus, ten thousand dollars.

J. C. Culbertson established his bank in 1901. Capital, fifteen thousand dollars.

Recently, a new graded school building was erected, at a cost of twelve thousand dollars.

Piper City has one hotel, much praised by the traveling public. The host is A. C. Miller.

In 1891 the electric light plant was built by A. A. Blair. It is now owned and conducted by Charles and David White.

The Piper City Telephone and Telegraph Company got its start from a private line. It now covers the county, and has connections with the county seat.

LODGES.

Piper Lodge, No. 608, A. F. & A. M.; I. O. O. F., Piper Lodge, No. 471; M. W. A., Piper City Camp, No. 718, instituted in 1888.

CHURCHES.

Piper City has four churches: United Presbyterian, First M. E. church, Catholic and German congregation.

RAILROADS.

The Toledo, Peoria & Western Railroad is Piper City's means of transporting its products.

J. D. Ticken, C. S. Mellen and S. D. Culbertson are the practicing physicians of Piper City.

Piper City has one lawyer and his name is M. H. Scott.

REMINISCENCES.

John R. Lewis, in his History of the Pan Handle of Ford County, has recorded much of interest, and we make room for several extracts:

On or about the 1st of September, 1856, a prairie fire was started in the south part of what is now known as Ford county, and the wind being from the south drove the fire over the country at a frightful speed, burning all the prairie lying west of the Illinois Central Railroad track to what was known

as Indian Timber, and as far north as the Kankakee river before it could be stopped. As I said, the season was very dry, and the low sloughs that grew a very fair quality of grass that year, continued to burn for fully three months, or until the ground froze up in the fall. The lands that were so badly burned still show the effects of the fire. Some of these places came directly under the writer's observation, and were he in the northern part of the county now, he could show places in swamps on the north half of section 7, south half of section 6, in township 25 north, range 9 east, and in a small slough in the south half of southwest quarter of section 21, township 26 north, also in sloughs that lie south and west of Oliver's Grove, and near what was called Corn Grove, which before the fire was smooth, even sloughs, but are now ponds and lakes of water. The cause of this is that the tall grass, that at that time grew in the sloughs, took fire, and having so much body, burned into the ground in such a manner that it settled into basins. Among these may be mentioned Turtle pond, lying south of Oliver's Grove, and Corn Grove pond, lying west of Turtle pond. The timber in Oliver's Grove, especially the down timber, was nearly all destroyed, and it was considered that the loss in wood that Mr. Oliver sustained must have run into the thousands of cords. Going farther north to what is now known as Vermilion swamp, the effects of the fire may still be found. Before the fire, all that country from the county line of Ford and Iroquois counties, in township 28 north, range 9 and 10 east, was a large slough, which grew coarse but good grass, not canebrake as it does now. In this place the fire burned holes into the ground fully three feet deep and for several years after no grass or anything green grew there.

Before the fire, large herds of deer could be seen grazing quietly on the prairies, but these beautiful animals were now driven to other localities and deer meat was scarce.

The presidential election in the fall of 1856 caused very little excitement in our settlement. The voting place was full twenty-five miles distant at Prairie City, now Paxton, and the few settlers who were eligible to vote did not take the trouble to go to the polls. At that time the only voters in the Pan Handle were M. Parsons, Dr. Marshall, John R. Lewis, T. W. Pope, M. Faddling, Dr. DeNormandy.

This spring was noted for the large influx of new settlers, and carpenters who came on to build their homes for them, among the latter I remember Elisha and Nathaniel Sherman, of Onarga, and Mr. Needham. These three had others helping them, and it was with difficulty that they found boarding places. Among the first of the new settlers who came were Messrs. Samuel and Michael

Cross. These began putting up a house on the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 4, township 26, Mr. Needham superintending the work. They boarded with John R. Lewis and traveled four miles morning and evening to and from their work. Soon after these came, which was in April, it was discovered that a house was being built on the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 20 for a family from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, named McKinney. The next house to be built was for Ira Z. Congdon on the northeast corner of section 32. Mr. Congdon came from near New London, Connecticut, along with what was known as the Connecticut settlers, mention of whom will be made hereafter. A little to the west of Mr. Congdon, on the same section, Wallace W. Wicks commenced improving a farm, but did not build on it. Aaron Scofield built on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 30, and at the same time Conrad Volp put up a house on the southeast quarter of section 10. He came from near Albany, New York, and brought with him his three youngest sons, Horace, George and Christopher, the oldest son, Charles, having come out the summer before and taken up his abode with A. J. Bartlett.

All these settlers were near each other, but a few began to arrive and take up land in the northern townships, which seemed to us at that time a long way off. The first of these was Robert Hall, who came from New York state. He had purchased a large tract of land from the I. C. Railroad Company, and built his house on the southwest corner of section 28, township 27, and soon after a young man from near Boston, Massachusetts, put in an appearance, and commenced to build a small house on section 22. He had no family and kept "bach." His name was Henry Atwood. A little later in the summer Joseph Davis, from Ohio, settled on the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 6, in township 26. Most of these settlers arrived in time to break up some land and put it into corn.

I will now go back to the time the Connecticut settlement was organized.

During the winter of 1855-56 an organization was effected by a few citizens in and around New London in the state of Connecticut, under the name of the Working Man's Settlement Association, with the following named persons as members:

W. A. Babcock, president; R. A. Hungerford, secretary; S. K. Marston, treasurer; M. E. Morgan, E. Marston, B. F. Field, Urbane Havens, Ira Z. Congdon, R. R. Piersons, Rev. P. J. Williams, George B. Clark, J. H. Lester, S. P. Avery, W. H. Bently, Sidney A. Morgan, Theophilus Morgan, B. N. Marston, William Appley, James S. Maxon, C. A. Marston, E. F. Havens, W. S. Lar-

kin, Gil R. Laplace, D. T. Hutchinson, James Miller, Robert Eccleston, U. S. Bossie, H. C. Dennis, E. C. Morgan, John Isham.

In September, 1856, the first permanent settlers belonging to the colony arrived, among them being S. K. Marston, E. F. Havens, George Clark, M. E. Morgan, S. P. Avery, T. and A. Morgan, D. T. Hutchinson, R. Eccleston and R. R. Piersons. While passing through Chicago, they purchased one hundred thousand feet of lumber for building purposes, and had it shipped to Onarga, to which place they were all bound.

In April and May, 1857, all these settlers moved onto their lands in the Pan Handle, and began making improvements.

Some time in June it was suggested by E. F. Havens that we all take baskets on the Fourth of July, go to School Section Grove, have a good time, and properly celebrate the birthday of our national liberty. All were pleased with the idea, and each one did his or her best to make it a success.

The eventful day at last arrived, and we all assembled at the grove. When the baskets were opened, Mrs. F. M. Cheney created quite a sensation by producing an immense pan of baked pork and beans. Others brought roast turkey, chickens, frosted cakes and other delicacies, but all these fine dishes were given the cold shoulder, each one longing for a dish of the dear old familiar homely, baked beans.

There were one hundred and ten persons present, men, women and children, and every one seemed surprised that there were so many people near them, and rejoiced in the feeling that they were not alone in the boundless wilderness.

In the summer of this year, the T. P. & W. railroad was built through the Pan Handle, the line being located near the north edge of township 26, running almost due east and west, and a long side track was laid on the north half of section 2. At this time, there were no settlers near the railroad, and a little to the west of the side track there was a big slough that completely cut off all communication from the west. East of the side track, there were no settlers within the boundary of the Pan Handle. The motive of the railway company in building the side track in such a place was beyond the comprehension of any of the settlers, but it was soon learned that there was to be a town there called Brenton, now Piper City.

There were regular meetings and Sabbath schools at the residence of some one of the settlers in town 26 during the summer and fall of this year. These meetings were principally conducted by Mr. McKinney, Robert Hall and Henry Atwood. Mr. Hall was superintendent of the Sabbath school, and was a faith-

ful worker. The houses where services were held were A. McKinney's, R. Hall's, J. E. Davis', Dr. Elias T. Hahn's and A. J. Bartlett's. The singing was led by M. Cross, with a flute. The meetings were well attended, and I believe much good was done by them.

In township 25, meetings were held at the homes of F. M. Wyman, S. K. Marston and Mr. Lyman, until the new schoolhouse was built, of which I shall speak hereafter. These meetings were noted for the excellent singing, in which Mr. and Mrs. Marston took an active interest, both being fine musicians.

At all these meetings no sect or ism was recognized. The people assembled to worship God, and few cared what particular denomination his neighbor belonged to.

At this time the early settlers were much concerned about money matters. The money in circulation was in the shape of bank bills, or notes, as they were called. Many of the banks had no money with which to redeem their notes and when this fact became known, of course the notes depreciated in value, and many persons lost considerable sums of money from this cause. In fact, no one knew whether the notes he held were good for anything or not.

The winter of 1857-58 was rather unsteady. There was not much frost, and the snow that occasionally fell in great quantities soon thawed off. The roads were about half frozen, which made hauling wood for fuel an impossibility and many of the settlers got badly discouraged.

At this time tea and coffee were almost unknown among the settlers. In fact the only coffee used was made out of browned corn, sweetened with a kind of rough molasses made from sorghum. This was first introduced by Mark Parsons in the spring of 1857, at which time he received from Mr. J. O. Norton, of Washington, District of Columbia, two or three packages of the seed. This he sowed, carefully harvesting the seeds produced from it, and making the juice from the stalk into molasses.

The Pan Handle was at this time infested with wolves and badgers. They abounded mostly in township 27, where they seemed to make their headquarters. The badgers were most frequently found on section 11, where there is a long sand ridge known as Mount Thunder, and to this point hunters frequently went, and a number of these animals were killed.

The winter of 1859-60 was dry and cold, not much snow fell, and the corn which was light, was gathered before the ground froze, and a quantity of fall plowing was done.

This winter surprise parties became quite fashionable, and notwithstanding the fact that the settlers lived long distances apart, were well attended. Social

bles were also in order, and a company often came over from Onarga, bringing good music with them.

We have now come to one of the most uneventful years in the early settlement of the Pan Handle, and of 1860 there is little to record.

Spring commenced early, and the small grain was mostly in by the end of March. Fine rains set in in April, and everything was lovely. It will be remembered by the first settlers that the ground squirrels were very annoying this year. They would follow the planter, and root the corn out of the hills from one end of the field to the other.

The principal trading point of the settlers north of the south line of town 26 was Chatsworth, and all south of this line went to Onarga.

Regular religious services were held in the Marston schoolhouse, in town 25, every Sabbath, conducted by Mr. Foster and Mr. Needham, one on one Sunday and the other on the next. The Sabbath school was conducted with Saul C. Burt as superintendent, and G. B. Winters as teacher of the Bible class, and S. K. Marston of the other scholars. This school was noted for its Bible discussions, conducted principally by Messrs. Winters and Wyman, and sometimes by S. C. Burt.

The Sunday school in the northern township was held at the homes of A. McKinney, Robert Hall and a few other houses. Mr. Hall was superintendent and A. McKinney teacher of the Bible class. Mr. Hall was an active worker in the Sabbath school, and taught one of the younger classes.

As a rule, Sunday was strictly observed by the entire settlement, and it was a rare thing to see any one doing any work on that day.

This year, 1860, the money in the county began to fail. The collectors of the different townships had been taking the Illinois bank's shinplaster bills, and when they came to settle with the auditor, they found that nothing but gold would be accepted, and the consequence was that the school funds were greatly reduced. Before the collectors began their work, the board of supervisors had ordered that the moneys of certain banks named should be accepted in payment, but before the day of settlement arrived, these banks had suspended, and the money was worthless.

Upon the settlement of the collectors, the board of supervisors convened and caused the deficiency to be properly proportioned among the different funds as fairly as possible.

This fall, the price of all kinds of country produce went away down. Oats sold for seven or eight cents per bushel, spring wheat for from thirty to forty cents, good dressed hogs for from one dollar and fifty cents to two dollars per

one hundred pounds, and everything else that farmers had to sell was down in the same way.

The following is a list of names of those who went from the Pan Handle to fight for the preservation of the Union and returned safely: A. S. Bavuse, Fred Foot, Henry Phelps, R. A. Pope, Rob Ferris, Jacob Brown, Ed Kent, Mr. Stoneback, James Feeley, H. Eccleston, D. Kingsley, Morris Burt, John Havens, Ed Havens, Albert Holmes and S. B. Lyman.

Killed or missing, Thomas Hahn, Joseph Law.

Some of those enlisted in Company F, Twenty-fifth Regiment Infantry, under Captain R. W. Andrews, others went into the cavalry in Company M, Ninth Regiment, Captain E. R. Knight. All who went from the Pan Handle in these companies, were credited to Iroquois county, as residents from that point.

I must now go back to 1858 and give your readers an account of how we that year celebrated the Fourth of July in Beset Grove:

About four hundred people were present, and we had a grand good time. Addresses were delivered by E. L. Gibson, G. B. Winter, G. H. Thompson and other local talent. The Prairie Glee Club, led by S. K. Marston, discoursed excellent music, and Seth Turner, the captain of S. K. Marston's ox team, helped to enthuse us with his rhymes.

This season (1864) the price of corn and other products ran up pretty high. Corn was sold for sixty cents per bushel, and some farmers who held theirs over, got as much as eighty-five cents. Oats sold for from forty to fifty cents per bushel, and barley ran up to two and a half dollars. This year, Peter Van Antwerp had sowed quite a large patch of barley, and raised sixty bushels to the acre. This he sold for two and a half dollars per bushel.

Rev. Charles Granger, of Button township, writes: "The writer and a few others organized what is now called the Congregational Church of Christ at Paxton, a few months after its organization at a village called Prospect City. The church was named the Union Church of Christ of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion river. With that name the church assisted in organizing and joined the Illinois Central East Association of Congregational Ministers. Within a year after its organization, the writer (the first minister of the church) instituted a series of religious meetings, which the head of the church approved by a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit. After laboring about four years, the writer gave up the charge because of ill health. Shortly thereafter, the church changed its name to Congregational. Although the Methodists had a



REV. GEORGE SCHLASSER, PIONEER, PANTON

class and week day preaching, the Union church instituted the first regular Sabbath preaching."

In May, 1854, Robert Blackstock, journeying from his home in Indiana westward, passed through what is now Ford county, and found a Methodist Episcopal society at Trickel Grove.

Services were held in John Dopps' log cabin, which afterward became the William Walker homestead, in Button township. On careful inquiry, he found this to be the first and at that time the only Methodist Episcopal society in the present county of Ford. It was organized in 1848, being the northwest appointment of the Danville circuit. A history of the Methodist church appears elsewhere in this work. Many of the facts, especially as to early events, were furnished by Mr. Blackstock.

It is related of Rev. W. H. H. Moore, who was on this circuit in 1855, that a Yankee clock peddler, passing through this new settlement, had stopped over night at a house at Trickel Grove, where religious services were to be held the following day. Having displayed his clocks in the largest room, and to show their timekeeping qualities had carefully wound and set them. When the preacher was in the midst of his sermon, the services being held in the clock room, these clocks began their work of noting the hour of twelve. All the fervor and eloquence of the frontier itinerant were not sufficient to hold the attention of his congregation, and it is feared that the labors of that day were in vain.

It has been said that in 1862 the first Sunday school convention for Ford and Iroquois counties was held on a Sabbath day in the freight depot at Loda. The active participants were the resident ministers of Paxton and Loda, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Search and others.

Some two years later, a similar convention was held at the courthouse in Paxton.

We are indebted to Edgar N. Stevens for the following items compiled from the files of the Paxton Record:

The first number of the Paxton Record was published February 9, 1865, by N. E. Stevens, with D. S. Crandall associate editor. The office was in a building which was a part of the residence of John McMurray, just south of the old Patton block. The building was small and the office unpretentious, but of ample size to meet the demands of the town. It has grown steadily ever since, keeping pace with the demand for good work and experienced workmen.

Among the first items of interest we notice was this: About the first of March, 1865, the legislature passed an act incorporating the town of Paxton.

On Thursday, May 4, of the same year, the mammoth grain warehouse of Buck & Hall was destroyed by fire. The loss was fourteen thousand dollars; insurance seven thousand eight hundred dollars.

In the spring of 1865 the town was in a prosperous condition and many new buildings were erected, among them the Methodist Episcopal church, the basement of which was used for a young ladies' seminary, conducted by Mrs. Buckland. In June of that year, there were the following number of business houses in the town: Five dry goods and groceries, three grocery stores, one warehouse, one flouringmill, two lumberyards, two drug stores, one printing office, one dentist, five physicians, four lawyers, one hardware store, one land agency, one furniture warehouse, one seeding machine manufactory, two hotels, one agricultural warehouse, one express office, one watchmaker, one meat market, one photograph gallery, one nursery, two shoe, four blacksmith, two wagons, one gunsmith, two carpenter and one paint shops, one saddlery, one millinery, one sulky cultivator works, one real-estate agency, two tobacconists, one furniture store, one bakery and one plow factory.

About this time the Meharry church, four miles west of town, was built by the farmers.

The corner stone of the Congregational church was laid with appropriate ceremonies, August 18, 1865.

The 4th of July, 1865, was celebrated at Ten Mile Grove, by a large concourse of citizens and Sunday school children. There was also a celebration at Trichel Grove.

R. S. Buckland, while on a tour of observation in Missouri, June 18, 1865, accidentally shot himself. His remains were buried in the old cemetery. He was a prominent and enterprising citizen of Paxton.

A division of the organization known as the Grand Army of the Republic was formed at Paxton in October, 1866.

The United Presbyterian church, a large edifice capable of accommodating six hundred persons, was dedicated March 11, 1867.

Pells' block, a three-story brick building with fifty feet front, was completed in the summer of 1867. It was built by W. H. Pells, and was destroyed by fire in the year 1874.

On the 6th of November, 1867, the citizens, legal voters of Ford county, gave an overwhelming majority in favor of taking one hundred and twelve thousand dollars stock in the Lafayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railway.

Clark's block, an elegant three-story brick building, fifty by eighty feet, and

forty-five feet in height, was finished in the fall of 1867. R. Clark, of Paxton, was the owner.

The fall of 1867 was remarkable for the heavy sales of real estate made by local dealers. One firm in Paxton sold nine thousand acres within thirty days. The sales of the same firm, for the five weeks ending December 5, aggregated fourteen thousand six hundred and three acres.

The number of inhabitants added to the county during the year ending July 1, 1867, was one thousand seven hundred and fifty.

The first seven days of May, 1868, will long be remembered on account of the unprecedented amount of rain. The meteorological report shows that the amount was three and fifty-seven hundredths inches, almost as much as for any month during the preceding four months. The storms were accompanied by thunder and lightning, the pyrotechnic display being most beautiful and magnificent.

A hurricane passed over Paxton Tuesday, May 26, 1868, stripping the steeple from the United Presbyterian church. This was the finest church edifice in the city, and the spire was beautifully proportioned to the building. The damage resulting therefrom was estimated at about eleven hundred dollars.

Paxton was visited by a heavy fire on Monday, January 18, 1869. The fire broke out in a building occupied by Travis, Hall & Company, as a hardware store, the second story being occupied by L. A. Dodd as a dwelling. The losers were Travis, Hall & Company, hardware dealers, eleven hundred dollars; interest in building, fourteen hundred dollars; no insurance; L. A. Dodd, household goods, five hundred dollars, insured; interest in building, one thousand dollars; uninsured; S. L. Day, interest in building, one thousand dollars, uninsured; J. McCormick, druggist, loss on building, three thousand dollars, insured for fifteen hundred dollars; loss on stock, five hundred dollars; N. A. Hall, restaurant, damage on stock, two hundred dollars; Mrs. S. S. Lantz, daguerreotype gallery, loss on stock, three hundred dollars, insured; loss on household goods, two hundred dollars; Scott & McDaniel, dry goods, loss on building, two thousand dollars; insured for fifteen hundred dollars; Masonic lodge, on furniture, two hundred dollars; C. H. Wyman, on building, two thousand dollars, with no insurance. The origin of the fire was unknown. The advantage of brick over wood as a building material was demonstrated in the case of Pells' block, which escaped comparatively unscathed, though subjected to an intense heat.

On the 27th of March excavations had been commenced for the foundations of five brick buildings to occupy the site of those destroyed by fire.

The engineer corps, engaged in running the line of the L. B. & M. Railroad through Paxton, arrived March 23, 1870, under charge of Colonel Morgan.

The assessment returns of Ford county, for the year 1870, amounted to two million thirty-seven thousand seven hundred and sixty-two dollars. The number of acres under cultivation were, of wheat, eight thousand six hundred and forty-five; corn, fifty thousand two hundred and two; other field products, twelve thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine.

Enterprise was the name of a village platted in township 27 (Drummer) at the crossing of the L. B. & M. and G. C. & S. Railroads, by J. B. Lott, in November, 1870. The location was favorable as to commercial facilities and the name of the village has since been changed to Gibson City. It is now one of the most flourishing towns of the county. As its original name implies, Gibson City is remarkable for its enterprise and thrift. It is the second town in the county in size and population, is provided with gaslight, has good sidewalks, telephone connection with Saybrook and Bloomington, and other modern improvements.

A destructive storm visited Paxton and vicinity from the 12th to the 14th of January, 1871. Every building, fence and tree was encased in an icy coat of mail nearly an inch in thickness. Scarcely a building escaped damage from leakage to a greater or less extent. The greatest loss sustained was to fruit and shade trees, some of those from four to five inches in diameter being either broken off entirely or stripped of their limbs.

The Paxton flax mill was built in the summer of 1871. The main building is one hundred and eight by thirty feet.

M. L. Sullivant finished husking his corn for 1871 on the 29th day of February, 1872. His crop aggregated four hundred and fifty thousand bushels. Mr. Sullivant was at that time proprietor of Burr Oaks farm comprising some forty-two thousand acres.

The last rail of the Lake Erie & Western Railway was laid February 22, 1872.

Kirk's Station, Clarence postoffice, was established in May, 1872, on the line of the L. B. & M. Railway, about six miles east of Paxton.

A terrible railroad accident was the cause of much sorrow in Paxton and vicinity, June, 1872. On the 17th of that month, a construction train ran from the track and four men were instantly killed and twenty-one injured. Two of the latter died soon thereafter. The coroner's jury returned a verdict in accordance with these facts.

Independence Day, 1872, was celebrated in the courthouse park. There was a large concourse of people present, and the usual oration, toasts, music, etc., were indulged in. There was a display of fireworks in the evening.

The first annual fair of the Ford County Agricultural Association was held, commencing September 24, 1872. The officers were William Noel, president; M. L. Sullivant and F. T. Putt, vice presidents; George Wright, treasurer; J. J. Simons, recording secretary; N. E. Stevens, corresponding secretary; John Bodley, superintendent.

October 29, 1872, the Paxton Methodist Episcopal church was dedicated, the sermon being delivered by Rev. A. P. Mead. The church had been occupied for a number of years, but at this time extensive repairs and improvements had been completed.

In October, 1872, a carload of scrapers, plows, etc., was unloaded at Paxton, to be used in grading the Paxton & Danville Railroad.

October 27, 1872, at the union services, Rev. W. M. Richie was installed as pastor of the Paxton United Presbyterian church. The sermon was preached by Rev. J. D. Whitham, of Rankin. The resident pastors, Revs. I. Brundage, W. D. Best and J. L. McNair, assisted in the services.

The work of drilling an artesian well was begun in 1873. During the progress of the work many curious bits of wood were drawn up which were, no doubt, buried in these strata ages upon ages ago. The well proved a failure, and after boring over twenty-seven hundred feet, the work was abandoned; not, however, until it had burdened the city with a debt of some eighteen thousand dollars.

The Presbyterian church in 1884 was a frame building, forty-two by sixty-eight feet, with vestibule, and was of the gothic order of architecture. The main audience room was twenty-eight feet high, and frescoed in Corinthian style. The interior presented a very pleasing appearance. The cost of the edifice was about seven thousand five hundred dollars. The dedication took place on the 13th day of July, 1873. Rev. Dr. Bailey preached the dedicatory sermon, and at the services some twenty-five hundred dollars was subscribed toward liquidating a debt of about two thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars which rested on the building.

THE SWEDES IN FORD COUNTY.

A book called "Svenskarne in Illinois" (the Swedes in Illinois) was compiled and written in 1880 by Captain Eric Johnson, of Galva, Illinois, and C.

F. Peterson, one of the managing editors of *Swenska Tribunen* (the Swedish Tribune) Chicago, and from it the following translations are made by John F. G. Helmer:

This part of Illinois has a very peculiar geographical shape, and is similar to Rock Island county. It is forty-one miles long and twenty-eight miles wide, located between Iroquois and Livingston counties. In one place it is twenty-eight miles, and in another again, eighteen miles wide, but only to again contract itself into a narrow strip only six miles wide. The county was organized in 1859, and had in 1870 a population of ten thousand people. The land is nearly level and in many places very level and flat, so that the system of ditches are necessary to carry off the surplus water in wet seasons. Paxton is the leading town and county seat, and has a population of three thousand six hundred.

THE SWEDES IN AND ABOUT PAXTON.

The Swedes in Paxton and the immediate vicinity have in Swen Hedenskog their earliest pioneer. He had in Sweden been overseer of a large plantation in the province of Holland, and emigrated with his family in 1857, and settled about nine miles west of Paxton. Here, poor as he was, he experienced many privations, but came out victorious, and prospered, and was considered well-off when he moved to Nebraska a number of years ago, at which place he died. In 1859, Carl Anderson, who was a sailor by occupation, and another man by the name of Andrew Olson (both from the Province of Helsingland, Sweden) located in the neighborhood. Anderson has since removed to Colorado.

When in 1863 it became an assured fact to locate the Swedish Augustana College at Paxton, the Swedish emigration became lively to these parts, and in that year an agreement was made with the Illinois Central Railroad Company that the Swedes should settle on lands the company had for sale, in consideration of which the company should pay the college a commission of one dollar per acre on every acre sold to the Swedish settlers. Consul P. L. Hawkinson, of Chicago, was the company's agent in Paxton. Among others who arrived at that time was Erik Rasmus, from Gammelstorp Blekinge. He had then been in the country ten years, having emigrated in 1853, and settled at Galesburg. In the same year (1863) came to the Paxton colony, Carl Larson, Erik Carlson, John Anderson and A. M. Hanson.

The following year brought to Paxton J. H. Wistrand, who was the first Swedish merchant in Paxton, and kept a grocery store until 1875, when the col-

lege removed to Rock Island; he also removed there and engaged in mercantile business. Peter Hedburg appeared in Paxton the same year, and kept a lumberyard at first, and afterward in various other occupations, and held the offices of justice of the peace and collector. Poor health made it necessary for him to seek a different clime, and in the spring of 1873 he removed to Colorado and located at Denver, where he became the Swedish consul.

Emigration to the Ford county colony continued brisk, and in 1865, the following additons from Attica, Indiana, where all had lived for many years: Fredrik Bjorklund, Carl Fager, John Swan, John Johnson, Carl Peterson, Peter Larson, Carl Johnson, Adolph Johnson and John Nelson. Emigration to the place continued constantly till 1870. Since then nearly as many have moved out west to the western states and territories, as have come here from Sweden. About them can be said that they have fought all difficulties with heroic courage, and acquired an independence where their American brethren and neighbors very often have failed. The secret here is their persevering hard labor, and strict economy.

The number of Swedes in Paxton is estimated at fifteen hundred. In no place, with the exception of New Boston, can be found as many business men (merchants) in proportion to the population, and no where do the Swedes do a better business than here. It is natural that they would not succeed as well, did not the Americans support them as well as their Swedish patrons. One of the most successful Swedish enterprises was Nels Dahlgren's plow and machine shops. Mr. Dahlgren had before been engaged with John Deere & Co. in Moline. He came to Paxton in 1865, and began on a small scale the same year. His productions, especially his plows, soon earned him a reputation as the best in the market, and the demand for them increased, and the shops were enlarged so that he was able to manufacture three hundred plows and forty cultivators in 1871.

We continue further, and find Gustaf Sandberg, who runs an important wagon and blacksmith shop; Swenning Anderson, blacksmith; J. P. Lindstrom, dealer and manufacturer in furniture and cabinet goods; Kjellstrand & Melby, painters; A. J. Laurence, dry goods; John F. G. Helmer, druggist; Peter Larson, merchant tailor; John Nelson, dealer in ready made clothing; Fred Telander, groceries and hardware; N. G. Egnall, furniture; Nels Younggreen, John Crantz, Andrew Anderson, Perry A. Berggren and Lars H. Rodeen, grocers; Sheldon & Swanson, dealers and manufacturers of boots and shoes; P. A. Berggren, photographer, and Swen Lundberg, brick and tile maker, with a yearly production of five hundred thousand brick. In the matter of churches, they are here as well

provided for as their countrymen elsewhere. The Swedish Lutheran congregation was organized by Prof. Hasselquist in 1863.

The first service was held in the old schoolhouse which belonged to the college, and served as a house of worship till 1872, when a good and substantial church was built.

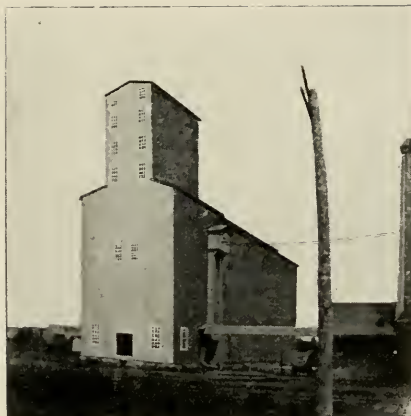
The congregation is a large one, and the Sunday school is equally so. In 1884 Rev. A. Edgren was pastor of the church, and was born in Nedra Ulleryd, in the Province of Vermland, the 3d day of January, 1844. He came to America in 1870, and graduated in Paxton the 29th of June, 1873. The Swedish Lutheran Mission church was, in November, 1878, organized with a membership of seventy-five, with Rev. A. P. Palmquist as its pastor. The following year a neat and pleasant church was built at an expense of fifteen hundred dollars. The membership has since largely increased. Society Swea has existed since 1877, and is at present in a very prosperous condition. Its principal object is to furnish its members social benefits and mutual assistance. Swea has already paid out a considerable sum as help to sick members, and has laid a good foundation for a library fund.

The Swedish cornet band was organized by the musically inclined Swedes, in October, 1877, with G. A. Palmblad as leader, and members of same were John A. Nelson, C. A. Larson, George Hanson, A. E. Sheldon, G. Swenson, G. A. Lundberg, A. Hegstrom, A. J. Anderson and Gust Sandburg. In the political field John F. G. Helmer held the office of coroner four years, the office of the justice of the peace has been held by Peter Hedburg, and also Andrew Lindstrom, now residing in Chicago; and he was elected collector of taxes. David Swanson is the present postmaster of Paxton.

FARMERSVILLE.

This is a settlement of Swedes, nine miles west of Paxton, and is the center of a large, prosperous settlement, dating back to 1863 and 1864, or at about the same time the college was located in Paxton. About the countrymen there is not much of a general interest to relate, because they live scattered on farms, and we have no other history than that of their church.

A Swedish Lutheran church was organized here in the year 1863, and in 1867 a church was erected at a cost of four thousand dollars and a parsonage costing two thousand dollars—membership about two hundred and twenty-five. This colony stretches far away in the north and west, to the stations of Elliott and Gibson, and in each of them are a number of Swedes.



SIBLEY ELEVATOR, SIBLEY

At Gibson reside several Swedish families, who have organized two churches, The Lutheran and Mission.

The Paxton settlement branches out south along the Illinois Central Railroad into Campaign county, and at Rantoul. East of Paxton we have Rankin, where a Swedish Lutheran congregation has existed since 1865.

STATISTICS.

ASSESSMENT FOR 1860.

Kind of Property	Number	Value
Horses	805	\$39,615 00
Cattle	1870	26,473 00
Mules	12	540 00
Sheep	108	108 00
Hogs	1133	2,721 00
Value of domestic animals.....		\$69,457 00
Indebtedness on domestic animals		11,292 00
Net value of domestic animals		\$58,165 00
Carriages and wagons	324	8,471 00
Clocks and watches	303	1,652 00
Pianos	4	335 00
Goods and merchandise		6,715 00
Manufactured article		15 00
Moneys and credits		11,663 00
Uncumbered property		18,446 00
Total personal property		\$105,462 00
Total valuation of lands		794,066 00
Total valuation of town lots		20,477 00
Total assessed value for 1860		\$920,005 00

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

Kind of Crop	Acres
Wheat	2,921
Corn	9,355
Other products	591
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Acres reported under cultivation	12,867

TAXES FOR 1860.

Kind of Tax.	Amount
State	\$4,324 02
State School.....	1,840 01
County	3,220 00
Special County	920 05
Road	462 63
School District 1, Town 23 Range 28	498 94
School District 2, Town 23, Range 8	70 36
School District 1, Town 24, Range 9	98 58
School District 2, Town 24, Range 9	303 01
School District 1, Town 23, Range 10	122 79
School District 3, Town 23, Range 10	85 08
School District 1, Town 23, Range 14	37 75
School District 2, Town 23, Range 14	106 43
School District 2, Town 23, Range 9	153 55
School District 1, Town 26, Range 9	625 97
School District 2, Town 26, Range 9	436 54
School District 4, Town 25, Range 9	536 40
Back taxes for 1859	164 12
Total taxes for 1860	14,005 23

FARM DRAINAGE OF FORD COUNTY.

In the early days much of the farming in Ford county was done upon low, wet and swampy lands. During those days it was no uncommon occurrence in the springtime to see a large number of acres of the very best land in the state under from one to two feet of water. For this reason much of the most valuable land in the county was at that time considered of little value on account of the lack of drainage. In recent years however, beginning as early as 1884 the farmers of Ford county have organized drainage districts and now, practically, all of the lands of Ford county, formerly low and swampy, have been reclaimed for agricultural purposes.

It is well known among agriculturists that low swampy lands when once properly drained become the richest and most productive of lands. Whereas, formerly, when the farmer sowed his grain in the springtime with no assurance

that he would reap a harvest, now, by successful drainage of his lands he finds an almost sure harvest.

There is now under operation and maintenance in Ford county, the following drainage districts:

Vermilion Special, cost	\$200,000.00
Pella No. 1, cost	\$12,000.00
Pella No. 2, cost	\$15,000.00
Union Pella and Brenton, cost	\$30,000.00
Wall Township, cost	\$25,000.00
Lyman township, cost	\$15,000.00
Lyman and Wall township, cost	\$30,000.00
Little Lyman, cost	\$ 5,000.00
Big Four, cost	\$425,000.00
Sullivant township, cost	\$18,000.00
Harmony township, cost	\$12,000.00
Sugar Creek, cost	\$18,000.00
Drummer Township uncompleted, estimated cost..	\$40,000.00

The above items of cost are estimated, and while not exactly correct, they are still very close to the exact figures. It will be observed that the public drainage work among the farmers of Ford county has reached or will reach approximately the sum of six hundred thousand dollars, when all the drainage districts now in process of construction are paid for. These drainage districts have reclaimed thousands of acres of land, which, before their construction, were either entirely non-productive or the crops growing thereon were largely lessened as a result of improper drainage. These districts have afforded sufficient and proper outlets for the lands within the boundaries of each district and the farmers have taken the opportunity to lay a great number of tile, so that, taking all and all Ford county has been reclaimed from numerous low, wet swamps to high grade, productive agricultural lands.

It is generally conceded that the farming lands of Ford county in productions, are far above the average of the farms throughout the state. And one of the main causes of this has been the result of public spirit among the farmers, resulting in the large expenditure of money in drainage.

The law firms that have been connected with this work are, Cloud & Thompson, Schneider & Schneider and A. L. Phillips. As a result of drainage litigation two very important cases have been taken from Ford county to the higher courts.

The case of Big Four Drainage District vs Perdue et al was taken to the appellate court by the firm of Schneider & Schneider, representing the objectors and Cloud & Thompson representing the drainage district. The question which arose in that case was, "To what extent must lands be benefited before they can be annexed to a drainage district and assessed?" The court held that it was necessary for the drainage commissioners to show that direct benefits accrue by giving the proposed annexed land, a better system of drainage, so as to enhance its market value.

Another case entitled Trigger vs Lyman and Wall Drainage District was taken to the supreme court by the attorneys heretofore mentioned, and the court in that case held that the commissioners could levy an assessment of benefits against the lands and that objectors to the assessment were not entitled to a hearing by a jury.

The supreme court has, however, held recently that drainage commissioners who own land in a drainage district are not competent to levy an assessment, and in at least three cases they have held such assessments unconstitutional and void.

Farm drainage and the law connected therewith is a science in itself and the farmers of Ford county have given the matter a great deal of attention. They know that Ford county is an agricultural section and that the wealth of the county lies chiefly in its farms and they have determined to do all in their power to increase the value of their lands by drainage and otherwise. They are a rugged, sterling set and have caused "two blades of grass to grow where one grew before." Generations to come will reap the reward of their industry and frugality.

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FORD COUNTY FAIRS.

A public meeting was held at the courthouse in Paxton, April 9, 1864, for the purpose of organizing a fair association. J. H. Dungan was chosen chairman of the meeting and William A. Goodrich, secretary. A constitution for an association, to be known as "The Ford County Agricultural Society," was unanimously adopted, in which the object was stated to be "The promotion of agricultural, horticultural, mechanical and household arts," and the following officers were elected:

President, Frederick T. Putt; vice presidents, Joshua E. Davis, J. P. Search, E. F. Havens; recording secretary, L. A. Barber; corresponding secre-

tary, R. R. Murdock, treasurer, John L. Murdock; directors, James F. Hall, Howard Case, Leonard Pierpont, William Baker, G. B. Winter.

Under the above organization county fairs were held in Paxton in 1864 and 1865. After this no fair was held for several years. On the 10th of February, 1872, a public meeting convened at the courthouse to reorganize under a new constitution and the by-laws of the state board of agriculture. Of this meeting, Benjamin F. Dye was chairman, and N. E. Stevens, secretary. This object, however, was not accomplished until an adjourned meeting, held April 6, 1872, when a constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the following officers elected:

President, William Noel; vice presidents, M. L. Sullivant, F. T. Putt; secretary, John J. Simons; treasurer, George Wright; corresponding secretary, N. E. Stevens; executive committee; John Bodley, W. B. Holmes, Samuel Lefever, B. F. Dye, John Richardson, William T. Patton, R. Cruzen, C. F. Frew, A. H. Hanley.

Under this organization a fair was held in Paxton, commencing September 24, 1872, and lasting four days.

On the 14th of January, 1873, having ascertained that, by a clerical error, the name of the society did not conform to the requirements of the state board, a resolution was adopted declaring the name to be "The Ford County Agricultural Board."

The officers elected for 1873 were as follows:

President, William Noel; vice presidents, F. T. Putt, William Walker; secretary, John J. Simons; treasurer, George Wright; corresponding secretary, C. H. Frew; executive committee, John Bodley, W. B. Holmes, Samuel Lefever, B. J. Dye, John Richardson, W. T. Patton, R. Cruzen, C. W. Meharry, A. H. Hanley. The second annual fair was held at Paxton, September 2 to 5, 1873.

Following is the list of officers for 1874:

President, William Noel; vice president, C. W. Meharry; secretary, John J. Simons; treasurer, George Wright; corresponding secretary, C. H. Frew; executive committee, John Bodley, Lindsey Corbley, J. H. Flagg, R. Cruzen, A. H. Hanley, John Karr, F. T. Putt, B. F. Hill, John Bayne.

The fair in 1874 was held at Paxton, September 29 to October 2.

The next annual fair was held at the same place, September 21 to 24, 1875. Officers: President, William Noel; vice president, J. H. Flagg; secretary, Merton Dunlap; treasurer, J. P. Day; corresponding secretary, N. E.

Stevens; executive committee, F. T. Putt, H. J. Schaeffer, John Karr, John Bayne, P. V. Healey, John Bodley, B. F. Hill, N. B. Day, R. Cruzen.

In 1876 the fair was held September 19 to 22. Officers: president, F. T. Putt; vice president, J. H. Flagg; secretary, Merton Dunlap; treasurer, John M. Hall; corresponding secretary, N. E. Stevens; executive committee, William Noel, George Arnott, William T. Patton, H. J. Schaeffer, C. H. Frew, G. W. Cruzen, J. P. Middlecoff, John Karr, P. V. Healey.

The fair in 1877 was held September 11 to 14. Officers: president, F. T. Putt; vice president, William Noel; secretary, John J. Simons; treasurer, John M. Hall; corresponding secretary, N. E. Stevens; executive committee, H. J. Schaeffer, G. W. Cruzen, George Arnott, A. L. Clark, N. B. Day, Charles Bogardus, C. M. Bodley, Daniel Moudy, J. H. Flagg.

The date of the next fair was September 10 to 13, 1878. Officers: president, Abram Croft; vice president, H. J. Schaeffer; secretary, G. W. Cruzen; treasurer, John M. Hall; corresponding secretary, N. E. Stevens; executive committee, J. P. Day, Stacey Daniels, Daniel Moudy, W. E. Sawyer, J. B. Loose, R. Cruzen, George Arnott, C. W. Meharry, Lindsey Corbley.

In 1879 the fair was held September 16 to 19. Officers: president, Abram Croft; vice president, A. L. Clark; secretary, G. W. Cruzen; treasurer, John M. Hall; corresponding secretary, N. E. Stevens; directors, J. P. Day, J. C. Kirkpatrick, J. B. Loose, William Noel, F. T. Putt, W. E. Sawyer.

The fair of 1880 was held August 31 and September 1 to 3. Officers: president, Abram Croft; vice presidents, J. P. Day, A. Goodell, H. J. Schaeffer; secretary, W. McTaggart; treasurer, John M. Hall; corresponding secretary, N. E. Stevens; directors, N. B. Day, O. A. Swanson, T. M. King, A. M. Daggett, John Karr, J. W. Axline, J. R. Kimnear, William Noel, E. F. Earl.

The last fair was held in Paxton, August 30 and 31, and September 1 and 2, 1881. Officers: president, Charles Bogardus; vice presidents, E. F. Earl, N. B. Day, W. E. Sawyer; secretary, George A. Hall; treasurer, George Grove; corresponding secretary, D. E. Stoner; directors, A. Croft, W. McTaggart, William Noel, A. M. Daggett, T. M. King, William Kenney, Nels Dahlgren, R. S. Hall, J. W. Axline.

BRENTON AND PELLA FARMERS' CLUB.

At a meeting held in Clark's Hall at Piper City, November 5, 1881, by some of the citizens of Brenton and Pella townships, for the purpose of organizing a farmers' club, the following business was transacted:

On motion of James McDermott, of Pella, James Arnold, of Pella, was chosen president. On motion of James R. Rezner, of Brenton, T. J. Sowers, of Pella, was chosen secretary, and on motion of Peter Gallahue, of Pella, James R. Rezner, of Brenton, was elected treasurer. On motion, the club was named The Brenton and Pella Farmers' Club.

On motion, adjourned to meet again in Clark's Hall, December 3, 1881, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

T. J. Sowers, Secretary.

At the next meeting, December 3, 1881, J. A. Montelius moved that the officers elected hold their offices for one year. Carried.

This was the first of a number of most interesting meetings during the winter of 1881-82. They were all well attended, and many farmers gave some valuable information on matters of interest to agriculturists.

During this year it was decided to hold a fair for the exhibition of live stock, and the 23d day of September, 1882, was selected for the occasion.

At this meeting, Henry Allnutt was elected assistant secretary.

The premiums offered were the Western Rural and Piper City Advertiser, for the best blooded animal on the grounds.

The blue and red ribbons were awarded in each class. There were seventy-nine entries. Three span of horses afterward sold for five hundred dollars each for each span. R. Dunn, of Brenton, took the Western Rural and Advertiser premium.

GIBSON.

This society was organized in 1872, and the first fair was held in September of that year. The first officers were J. E. Davis, president; W. H. Simms, secretary; John H. Collier, treasurer. The society continued in successful operation until 1879, the last fair being in September of the latter year. The last officers were J. B. Lott, president; R. M. Smith, secretary; M. T. Burwell, treasurer.

Mr. Lott, who was very active and succeeded in making this last fair quite a success, was taken sick and died shortly afterward.

THE SCHOOLS OF FORD COUNTY.

People always enjoy the contemplation of that portion of their history which has been subject to severe struggles and hardships, because all things valuable are acquired by exertion, self-sacrifice and cost, and amid great vicissitudes.

What is true of individual history is equally true of the history of communities and nations. Even the histories of enterprises of all kinds are subject to the same general law.

It is a lamentable fact, however, that those incidents, in which we feel so keen and lively an interest, are largely wrapped in the obscurity of tradition. This is owing to the small, almost insignificant, beginning of all enterprises, and the little importance attached to the necessity of preserving the early records. We are apt to forget that, however insignificant the beginning of anything may be, it may, in course of time, assume vast and paramount importance.

Near the close of October, A. D. 1853, David Patton removed from Lafayette, Indiana, to that portion of the present Ford county, popularly known as Ten Mile Grove, about two and a half miles west of Paxton. Here Mr. Patton found about a dozen families, who had located along this belt of timber, not venturing far out on the prairie lest they should lack for fuel and shelter, which the timber so gratuitously provided.

The schoolhouses nearest to this point were located at Urbana and Middleport, a distance of about twenty-five miles. The desire to give their children an elementary education existed in the heads of these families, but no effort had been made to secure the benefits to which all looked forward with an intense longing.

Under the direction of David Patton, a meeting was called, at which it was decided to erect a log schoolhouse. This resolution was not formed to be speedily forgotten, but was acted upon at once.

There was no plethoric treasury, there were no selfish contractors, there were no expensive mechanics to employ, so the men shouldered their axes, and in the most primitive manner constructed the most primitive schoolhouse. One week from the day of the meeting, the new schoolhouse was ready for use.

A difficulty at this point, however, presented itself. The schoolhouse was in place, and about thirty-five pupils waiting, eager to slake their thirst for knowledge at the spring from which they had been so long debarred. But teachers were scarce, and none could be found to lead the young minds.

In this extremity, Mr. Patton himself assumed the responsibility of teacher, opened the school about the middle of November, 1853, and taught till the following spring.

In the spring of 1854, Mr. Patton went to Lafayette, Indiana, to buy his supply of groceries, and while there employed a Miss Eulala Lewis, who taught for six months and then married.



PAXTON HIGH SCHOOL

During the winter of 1854-55, David Patton was again employed to teach, which he did with much credit to himself and great benefit to the school.

Miss Polly Dops, daughter of one of the earliest settlers, a family of the Button neighborhood, six miles southeast of Paxton, and favorably known by everyone, was engaged to teach for six months during the summer of 1855.

A Mr. Smith from Montgomery county, Indiana, was engaged to teach the school in the Patton district, as it was now called, during the winter of 1855-56. The pupils, some of whom could attend school only a short time during the year, manifested great interest in their work, and pursued their studies with a wonderful zeal.

Prospect City, now Paxton, on the Illinois Central Railroad, at this time gave promise of becoming an important business center, and many new families came in to share in the profits that often arise from the rapid building up and improving of new frontier towns.

Among the new comers was a Rev. W. W. Blanchard, of Urbana. Mr. Blanchard was engaged to teach the first school in the Upper Ten Mile, a place two miles further up the stream than the Patton school. This school was taught during the winter of 1855-56.

The people here had not yet built a schoolhouse, but the school was taught in the lean-to of the log house of the late Daniel C. Stoner, extensively and favorably known throughout the entire southern part of the county.

An incident worthy of notice, and one that will long be remembered in that locality; an incident that varied the humdrum monotony of everyday life, and fixed the beginning of a new era in that neighborhood, was the marriage of one of the pupils, Miss Barbara Stoner, to N. B. Day, one of the leading citizens of the young but enterprising city of Paxton. The teacher, Rev. Blanchard, solemnized the important event. A marriage is always of interest, but in a new country and a young community, it becomes an event of paramount importance. In this case the bride, Mrs. N. B. Day, continued an earnest student till the close of the term, which made the event doubly important, for not every school has the honor to have on its roll a full-blown bride.

Other pupils of this school were the Rev. Franklin Stoner; Jesse Todd; Edmund and Oliver Hagin.

We cannot stop to trace the history of the individual, nor give even a brief biography of each pupil. It is sufficient to state that nearly every member of these early schools filled an honorable place in the community where he resided.

In the summer of 1856, Mr. Blanchard was engaged to teach in the log schoolhouse in the Patton district, District No. 1. During the following winter

of 1856-57, Mr. Blanchard taught in the parlor of Mr. Patton, District No. 1, the old schoolhouse, which had been built in 1853, and at the time of the building was intended as a makeshift only, having become old and useless.

At this time the population increased so rapidly that it became necessary to organize new school districts. This was especially true of Paxton, a growing young city, but still without a schoolhouse.

Ford county did not yet exist, but the territory constituting it was still a part of Vermilion county. Applicants for teachers' certificates, therefore, were obliged to go a distance of fifty miles or more to Danville, in order to pass an examination and secure certificates. The journey across the country was not only very fatiguing and expensive, but at times quite impossible, and few could afford to make the long journey.

In order to obviate so long a journey, Mr. Blanchard wrote to the Superintendent at Danville, stating the circumstances, and requested him to appoint Mr. Patton an Examining Committee for the north part of Vermilion county. The superintendent returned an appointment to Messrs. Blanchard and Patton as such committee. This facilitated the work very much and was hailed with delight by all aspirants for teachers' positions. Mr. Blanchard being the scholar of this committee, did the examining, while David Patton, who was a live business man, attended somewhat to the general business connected with the office.

Among the first applicants for certificate under the new dispensation was Mrs. Salina Allen, an old and experienced teacher of Whiteside county, and sister of the Rev. Blanchard and President Blanchard, of Knox College.

Mrs. Allen was employed to teach the first school taught in Paxton. Among her pupils were the children of Mr. and Mrs. Stites, O. B. Taft, who was afterward a member of the firm of Pearsons & Taft. Mrs. Allen taught at different times with much success in the Patton and Stoner districts.

About this time, June, 1859, Ford county was organized, and the Rev. Blanchard was elected the first county Superintendent of Schools in the new county.

In the summer of 1859, Miss Mary A. Blanchard, daughter of President Blanchard, was employed to teach in the Patton district.

New districts were now rapidly organized, one near the place where Elliott is now located in Dix township, and Mrs. Allen, who had been teaching with such marked success in nearly all the schools in the new county, was employed to teach.

In 1860, a district was organized in the western part of Dix township. A portion of the territory forming this school district was taken from the eastern

part of Drummer Grove township, and was therefore called Union District. Harvey Nash was the first teacher in this school, and was followed by Mr. Pierpont, who finished his term, Mr. Nash having enlisted and gone to Washington to take up arms in the defense of his country.

Other teachers in this district were Miss Carver, Mrs. LeFevre and Miss Mary Pierpont, who married Henry C. Hall, of Paxton.

The country lying northwest of Paxton, and now known as Wall township, early attracted settlers to its fertile, rolling prairies. But the settlers were so much scattered that no united effort was made to secure educational advantages till the year 1861. In this year, a small schoolhouse was built on the northeast corner of section 26, in the Noel neighborhood, and is still known as the Noel school, although it has been moved south one mile, and is now located on the northeast corner of section 35. Mr. William Noel was the first township treasurer of Wall township. Miss Smith, from McLean county, was the first teacher to officiate in the Noel school.

After Mrs. Allen closed her term of school in Dix township, she was engaged to teach during the year 1861 in a new district in the western part of Wall township, organized by Mr. Lytle, who afterward was a respected citizen of Paxton. This school was taught in a log house belonging to Mr. Lytle. Mrs. D. Denman, of Paxton, was one of the first pupils. In the summer of 1862, a school was taught in this district in the house of John Morris, by Miss Katy Bonesell. No schoolhouse was built in this district till 1863, when a small schoolhouse was erected, and euphoniously christened "String Town School."

Mrs. Allen was an earnestly religious woman, and in addition to her school duties, found time to organize the first Sabbath school in Paxton, being also the first in Ford county.

During the summer of 1859, Miss Loretta Goodrich taught the first school in the Trickle Grove schoolhouse, about five miles southeast of Paxton.

A small schoolhouse was built in 1859, in Paxton, and Miss Jennie Lyon, who afterwards became Mrs. Samuel L. Day, was the first teacher. This schoolhouse was soon outgrown, sold for a dwelling-house, and a larger one was built. Mr. and Mrs. Amyx were the teachers here for some time. Soon this schoolhouse also became too small, and was sold to the First Swedish Lutheran congregation, and was, in 1872, sold to the Baptist body. The nucleus of the old frame building on the present schoolhouse site on East Center street was then erected, and was added to from time to time, as the occasion required.

In 1890 the north wing of the present brick building on this site was erected at a cost of ten thousand dollars, and in 1896 was completed at a cost of about

fifteen thousand dollars, which makes a complete and commodious school building for the high school and east side grades.

In 1902, by a vote of the people it was decided to build a brick building on the west side. Accordingly the beautiful West Lawn building was erected at a cost of twelve thousand five hundred dollars.

Of the teachers mentioned in connection with the history of this portion of the country, Messrs. Patton and Blanchard and Mrs. Allen deserve the honor of doing the pioneer work.

We have dwelt upon the details of the work done in this locality, not because it is of greater importance than that done elsewhere, but because the first school work was done here, and gradually spread over the entire county from this point.

The western portion of the county, consisting of Drummer, Grove, Sullivant and Peach Orchard townships, early gave attention to educational work. In the winter of 1854-55, Dr. Davis removed from Cheeney's Grove, McLean county, to the western portion of Ford county, and was for several years the only settler. That country in time attracted its share of new comers, and in 1862 Dr. Davis found several families, neighbors to himself, with no educational advantages. Dr. Davis employed a teacher in the winter in 1863-64, to give instruction to his children, and, being withal a generous man, he invited the neighbors' children to be educated with his family.

The first schoolhouse in this portion of the county was built in 1863, in the southeast part of Drummer Grove township, and is popularly known as the Wantwood School.

In the summer of 1865, two new school districts were organized, the Powers Farm school and the Drummer Grove school. The schoolhouse known as the Powers Farm school answered the threefold purpose of schoolhouse, church and public hall for several years. In 1870, the Powers Farm schoolhouse was removed and still serves as a dwelling house. The following year, 1871, a new and larger building was erected in its place, and the name was changed to Union School District No. 4.

Before either of the above mentioned houses were built, Miss Jennie Frew, of Paxton, taught in a small farm house on the farm of Mr. Asa Canterbury, 1865.

The first school officers elected were Asa Canterbury, treasurer; L. Lavett, C. Palmer and J. Warner, trustees; Thomas Green, Lewis Weakman and Caleb McKeever, directors.

The first teacher in the Union District was Miss Emma Clark, a lady without a finger or thumb on either hand, but by means of an elastic band around her

wrist, under which she slipped a penholder or pencil, was able to write a very good hand. By securing a switch in the same unique manner, she was enabled to give the obstreperous youths as much of the birch as was thought necessary to aid an elementary education.

The Drummer Grove schoolhouse was erected in 1866, and in 1872 was removed to Gibson City, and has since then grown into an efficient graded school. Of the early teachers in the Drummer Grove schoolhouse, we will mention only a few: Arabella M. Davis, daughter of Dr. Davis, before mentioned, and afterward Mrs. Weaver White; A. F. Irwin and Weaver White.

The original Drummer Grove schoolhouse, which had been moved to Gibson City in 1872, soon became too small to accommodate the rapidly increasing school population of the enterprising young city, and it was found necessary to provide a larger building. The people of Gibson City, therefore, who, by the way, were never known to do anything in a half-way manner, erected, in 1874, a large and substantial brick building, at a cost of eight thousand dollars, with four elegant rooms. But so rapid was the increase in population that it became necessary to provide more room. Another schoolhouse was erected in 1882, and Gibson City is now provided with school buildings second to none in Eastern Illinois.

The entire Pan Handle, consisting of Lyman, Brenton, Pella, Mona and Rogers townships, was known by the name of Town of Stockton until the year 1858.

In 1858, a petition was sent to John C. Short, who was county clerk of Vermilion county, asking that notices be issued and forwarded to John R. Lewis, to set off town 26, range 9. This was done and the town of Brenton dates its organization from this time.

About the same time, 1858, efforts were made to have the territory south of Brenton and north of Wall set apart as a distinct township, forming what is now Lyman township.

A meeting to elect township trustees was held at the residence of John R. Lewis, January 1, 1859, and J. E. Davis, A. J. Bartlett and Saul C. Burt were elected township trustees. This was the first step toward popular education in the Pan Handle, and from this nucleus the work has spread over the entire northern part of the county. The trustees met for the purpose of organizing, February 9, 1859, at the house of A. J. Bartlett. After the organization had been completed, the township of Brenton was divided into two school districts, the south half forming District No. 1, and the north half District No. 2. John R. Lewis was appointed township treasurer for Brenton township, and also received

a commission from Superintendent Blanchard to examine applicants for teachers' certificates. Mr. Lewis filled the latter office until the election of James Brown, 1869. It was further provided at this meeting, that election notices for a school election in District No. 1 be posted and an election held in order that something tangible might be done in securing school privileges. This election was held at the house of Jacob Titus, Monday, February 21, 1859, but was adjourned to February 28. At this adjourned meeting, John R. Lewis, District No. 1, Brenton township. Nothing more, however, was done in securing a school at this time. Mark Parsons and Ira Z. Congdon were elected the first Board of Directors in 1859. There were no schoolhouses; the dwelling houses were small and the obstacles that hindered school work almost unsurmountable.

J. E. Davis and A. J. Bartlett, trustees, had moved from the township shortly after their election in the summer of 1859, and it became necessary to elect other trustees in their place. Accordingly a meeting for the election of trustees was called for February 1, 1860. At this election L. T. Bishop and T. W. Pope were elected. So far schools existed in theory only, and as no education was diffused in this way, great efforts were now made to have a school in reality. To further this end, John R. Lewis offered his shed lean-to for a school-house, which was gladly accepted.

A Miss Annie E. Hobbis, afterward Mrs. Conrow, wife of County Superintendent Conrow, was the first teacher in the Pan Handle, beginning the school the first Monday in December, 1859, and continued four months. Mr. Lewis, in addition to giving his lean-to for school purposes, furnished the fuel to keep the pupils warm, and board for the teacher for four months. For this he received the very liberal compensation of twenty-four dollars.

The following summer, 1860, the first schoolhouse in the Pan Handle was built on the farm of Mr. Wagner, and is to this day known as the Jacob Wagner School. This was a small building, sixteen by twenty feet, but answered the purpose quite well. Miss Hobbis, who had made a record as a good teacher the winter before, was engaged to teach the pupils that gathered at this diminutive college.

A small village, Piper City, had sprung up in District No. 2, in the northern part of Brenton township, and it became necessary to provide means for education there. A small schoolhouse, probably the smallest ever built, twelve by twelve feet, was erected in 1865. This house was several years afterward displaced by a larger and more convenient school building. The first teacher here was Miss Mary Thompson. After the close of Miss Thompson's term, a

Miss Brown, who became Mrs. McElhiney, taught in the village school. From this small beginning has grown the present efficient graded school of Piper City.

In 1900, by a vote of the people the schoolhouse site was changed to the south side and the present fine six room brick building was erected at a cost of twelve thousand five hundred dollars.

Lyman township was not far behind her sister township, Brenton, in educational work. About the same time when Brenton township was organized, S. K. Marston sent in a petition to have Lyman township organized, and the organization of the two townships was consummated about the same time. In the northeastern part of Lyman township are several sections of broken, rolling land, which were early settled by people from Connecticut. They chose this because it stood in such a decided contrast to the surrounding prairie, which to them looked more like a great expanse of marsh than land fit for agricultural purposes, and was more in conformity with the nature of the country in their Connecticut homes. These persons, eager for educational advantages, organized a school district in 1859, and Mrs. S. K. Marston was engaged to give the necessary instruction. This first school was taught in an upper room of Mr. Marston's dwelling. Among the pupils was G. P. Lyman, brother of S. B. Lyman, ex-sheriff of Ford county. A schoolhouse was built in this settlement in the summer of 1860, and was named District No. 1. Soon after this, a district was organized two miles south. This was christened District No. 2, and is popularly known as the Larkin's District. No schoolhouse was built in this district for some time, but W. S. Larkins came to the rescue by giving the use of one of his rooms for school purposes. Here Miss Alice J. Jewell scattered the jewels of an elementary education among the rising generation. The second term of school in this district was taught in a small stable, converted into a school room, and Miss Jewell again presided as teacher. In 1863 or 1864 a schoolhouse was built, and one of the early teachers was the congenial George H. Thompson, extensively known throughout the entire central part of the county.

The educational work having now fairly begun, rapidly spread over the entire northern portion of the county. It is impossible in brief space allotted to us to make mention of all townships, and furthermore, the early history of some of the townships is so intimately interwoven with the history of adjoining townships that to separate them would rob them of much of their interest.

On April 18, 1870, the first election for district No. 1, township 24, range 8, New Melvin District, was held at the residence of Charles Phillips. There were only five votes cast in the district, August Buckholz, Charles Phillips and William Lackey were elected as the first board of directors. In the fall of 1870 a

small schoolhouse was built on the southeast corner of section 2 and in April, 1871, the first term of school began with Miss Hattie E. Mathis as teacher.

Miss Clara B. Husten was the next teacher, followed by W. H. Thompson who taught several terms.

In the spring of 1875 at a special election it was voted to purchase a new site in the village of Melvin and to erect a new schoolhouse. This building was added to from time to time until it became a six room building and served the purpose of the district until 1903 when the site was changed to its present location and a beautiful six room brick building erected at a cost of twelve thousand five hundred dollars.

GRADED SCHOOLS.

Ford county has at the present time thirteen graded schools, and five high schools. One at Paxton, the county seat, one at Gibson City, Piper City, Melvin and Sibley. The schools at Paxton and Gibson City have for a number of years ranked among the best graded schools in eastern Illinois. The work of these schools has been so thorough and broad as to fit their graduates sufficiently to participate in the practical affairs of life with great efficiency.

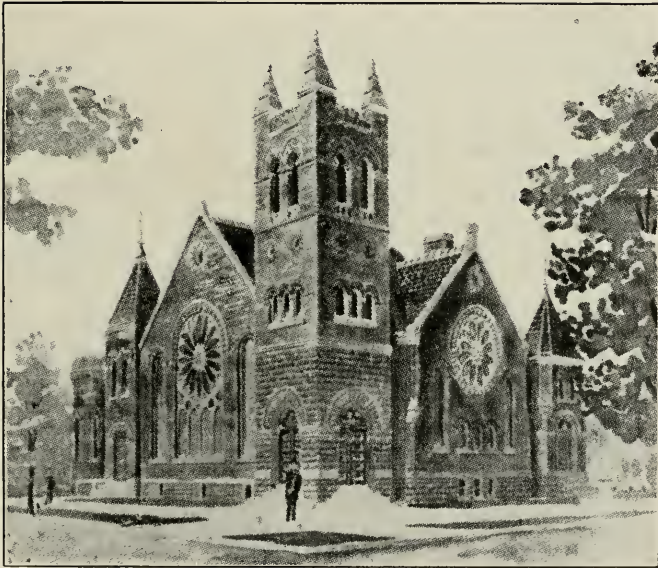
The graded school buildings are not only substantial and roomy, but attractive and comfortable.

COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

There are ninety-nine district schools in Ford county, although Ford was the last county organized in the state, her district schools, in the efficiency of the work done, are fully equal to the schools of some counties much older. With but very few exceptions, the school buildings are well fitted for the purpose they are intended to serve, and where the schoolhouses are small and old, strenuous efforts are being made to effect the needed improvements. There is no doubt, that in course of time, the district schools of Ford county will be equal to the best district schools in the state.

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

There are thirteen graded schools and one hundred and nine ungraded schools in Ford county. Seventy-five of these schools have libraries and among them are five thousand four hundred and thirty-three books. In these schools are



METHODIST CHURCH, PAXTON

four thousand one hundred and seventy-six pupils, taught by one hundred and sixty-two teachers. The average monthly wage for the male teacher is seventy-four dollars and forty-seven cents; for the female, forty-one dollars and ten cents. The value of school property in the county is two hundred and two thousand seven hundred and fifty-five dollars; of the libraries, four thousand seven hundred and sixty-five dollars; apparatus, seven thousand one hundred seventy-seven dollars. Total amount paid teachers in 1907, sixty-two thousand and seventy-nine dollars and sixty-seven cents.

CHURCH HISTORY.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF FORD COUNTY.

The rapid development of this western country and unparalleled increase of the population of the United States is a marvel among nations. But the genius and polity of the Methodist Episcopal church has well adapted itself to this age of wonders; for, while the nation's population has increased from about three millions in 1784 to seventy millions in 1908, the growth of this denomination has been even more marvelous. Under her system "energetic, migratory, itinerant—*ex tempore*—like the population itself," as soon as the settlers stretched their tents or erected their cabins, they were furnished the privileges of the gospel. Hence we would expect to see this church early represented in the history of Ford county. There are thirteen organized societies in the county, viz: Pleasant Grove, Clarence, Paxton, Meharry's Chapel, Elliott, Center S. H., Gibson City, Sibley, Kempton, Cabery, Piper City, Roberts and Melvin, with an aggregate membership of about eight hundred. There are six church buildings and three parsonages valued at twenty-three thousand nine hundred dollars; thirteen Sunday schools and one thousand two hundred and seventy-four scholars, and two union schools, in the work of which this denomination shares.

Pleasant Grove—The first Methodist Episcopal Society in this territory was organized in 1848, at Trickle Grove, in John Dopps' log cabin, consisting of John Dopps, class leader, Elihu Daniels, Matthew Elliott, Thomas Short and members of their families.

This was then an appointment in the Danville circuit. Services were held regularly in this humble home until 1857, when Flagg's schoolhouse was erected and that became the regular preaching place and continued to be until the

Pleasant Grove church was built in 1869, very near the spot where Dopps' log cabin stood. This society and that of Clarence formed a part of the Rankin circuit.

PAXTON—As early as the latter part of 1856, services were held occasionally at the residence of Benjamin Stites, Paxton, Illinois, and on the first Sunday in May, 1857, Rev. Hann organized a society at the schoolhouse. There appeared on record the names of Mrs. Stites, Jonathan Covolt, P. W. Cooley and wife, Mrs. Howard Case, Jonas Randolph and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead, Henry Alvah and wife, and others.

In September, 1857, Rev. E. Dunham, father of J. C. Dunham, formerly editor of the Paxton Register, was appointed to the Paxton circuit, then composed of the following societies, viz: Paxton, Pleasant Grove, Loda, and Patton's schoolhouse. At the first quarterly conference there were present Robert Blackstock, Francis Meharry, John Dopps, Matthew Elliott, John P. Dopps, Jonathan Covolt and Jonas Randolph.

Rev. Dunham did valuable services in 1857-58, and, having settled on a farm north of town, continued to be an active and honorable member of the church until his death. The circuit was served consecutively by Rev. H. H. McVey, two years; Rev. M. Butler, two years; Rev. M. M. Davidson, two years. At this time, 1864, the law of the church was changed, extending the pastoral limit to three years.

During the pastorate of M. M. Davidson, in 1863-64, an edifice was erected, at a cost of eight thousand dollars. Its audience room furnished about four hundred sittings, and the basement was well arranged into Sunday school and class rooms. This society had a resident membership of two hundred, fairly represented by such men as Robert Blackstock, A. C. Thompson, Merton Dunlap, J. M. Hanley, J. N. Bondurant, John Spindler, J. P. McCracken, N. B. Day, F. and C. Meharry, James Mercer, R. S. Hall, H. C. Rawlings, L. Corbley, E. F. Earl, and J. S. Webber and J. B. Congram, local preachers. It sustained a Sunday school, under the direction of Merton Dunlap as superintendent (he held that position for many years) that would compare favorably with the best in enthusiasm and thoroughness of work. They had also a good parsonage property, well located, valued at one thousand eight hundred dollars, secured under the labors of the pastor.

In 1903, a new church edifice was built, at a cost of twenty thousand dollars. The pipe organ cost two thousand dollars.

Meharry Chapel—There had been services occasionally at David Patton's residence, Ten Mile Grove, for some years previous to 1857, when Stoner's

schoolhouse became the regular appointment until the erection of Meharry's Chapel, four miles west of Paxton, in the early part of the summer of 1864. This was the first church built in Ford county. It cost fourteen hundred dollars, which was principally contributed by Robert Blackstock and F. Meharry, who, it should be remembered, contributed also very largely toward the erection of the church in Paxton about the same time.

Gibson—Like many railroad towns of the prairie, Gibson sprang up as if by magic. Methodism, however, was early on the ground, and had been as energetic and enterprising as the village. The first regular service was held in the depot, and afterward in Gilmore's Hall, until the church building was erected, under the pastorate of Rev. Job Ingram, in 1872, at a cost of about two thousand five hundred dollars. Such had been the growth of the society that the church building was too small to accommodate either its congregations or Sunday school. The membership of the society is large and it sustains the largest Sunday school in the county.

Sibley—The Sibley society was organized in 1879. Rev. M. C. Wilcox was its first pastor, and the following names appear on the record as original members: W. A. Bicket and wife, W. A. Pawley and wife, John Smale and John Smale.

Center schoolhouse is located in Wall township about four miles north of Meharry's Chapel in the midst of a well-to-do and intelligent farming community. While preaching services have been held here for a few years occasionally, it was not until the latter part of the year 1882, that the organization was effected by J. L. Miller, a very promising young man, who traveled the Loda circuit under the presiding elder.

Roberts and Melvin—The Roberts and Melvin circuit represents church and personal property valued at five thousand seven hundred dollars.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PAXTON.

This church was organized January 16, 1858. At this time the city of Paxton was called Prospect City. The church was organized in the name of the Union Church of Christ of the Middle Fork of Vermilion river. Both the names of the church and the city were subsequently changed. The one to the First Congregational, and the other to Paxton. Rev. Charles Granger, of Urbana, Champaign county, Illinois, was invited by Rev. William W. Blanchard and others to come to this new field and preach and labor to build up a church of the Congregational order. He came in the spring of 1857

and labored faithfully and successfully, preaching in the schoolhouse, a small building, now finished into a private residence, and also at different places on the south side of the Middle fork of the Vermilion river in private residences.

His labors resulted in the organization of the church above named. Owing to the extent of the field, all the friends interested in the church were not present at its organization. But eight persons entered into covenant and constituted what is now the First Congregational church of Paxton. The meeting was held at the house of William A. Goodrich. Rev. Charles Granger was moderator, and opened the exercises with religious services. The following are the names of the persons who entered into covenant: Charles Granger, E. Granger, William W. Blanchard, Elizabeth Blanchard, Charles Wall, William A. Goodrich, Betsy A. Goodrich and Loretta Goodrich. Mr. Granger continued to preach for about four years. His labors were blessed with precious revival influences, and quite a number were added to the church, some of whom are still valuable members of the church, and others of precious memory have left us to join the glorious church above. Mr. Granger was attacked with paralysis, which terminated his labors. The church was then left without preaching, and brother William W. Blanchard induced Rev. E. O. Tade, of Loda, to preach for us once a month at 3 o'clock P. M., until we could make permanent arrangements. Mr. Tade was a very young man; his work was good and well received. Brother David Martin, who came to us from La Salle county, recommended Rev. George Schlosser, of Lockport, as an able and faithful minister.

After Brother Schlosser's resignation, Rev. William Kopp, professor in Augustana College, was employed as a supply until a pastor could be obtained. Professor Kopp was a man of unusual intelligence and amiability; well did he fill his calling. There were none but respected and loved him. He died in Pittsburg, soon after, a martyr to his faithfulness in the service of Christ. At this time Professor Bliss, the singing evangelist, who perished at Ashtabula, Ohio, who has a monument erected to his memory by the Sabbath school children who sung his songs, recommended Rev. Israel Brundage, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Kirkwood, Broome county, New York, a suitable man for pastor and available. It resulted in a correspondence, the extension of a unanimous call, and an acceptance. Brother Brundage commenced his labors in April, 1867, and closed his pastorate January 1, 1874, wanting but little of seven years.

Soon after the resignation of Brother Brundage, Rev. Theodore Clifton was called to supply the pulpit. He resigned his pastorate October 31, 1875,

to accept a call to the Mayflower Congregational church of St. Louis, Missouri. After quite a period had elapsed in which there was only occasional preaching, Rev. B. F. Sargeant received and accepted a call to become pastor of the church June 20, 1877, and resigned his pastorate November 15, 1879, a little over two years' continuance. It was Brother Sargeant's first charge. He was a young man of promise. Rev. B. F. Worrel, who was residing in Paxton, supplied the pulpit until the church could obtain a pastor. On October 6, 1880, a call was extended to Rev. M. S. Crasswell to become the pastor of the church and was accepted. He resigned September 17, 1882.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PAXTON.

Early in the history of Paxton (then Prairie City) some United Presbyterians, feeling the want of a public worship according to their own conscientious convictions, united their efforts, and, in 1856, secured the services of Rev. J. P. Smart (Associate Reformed) of Xenia, Ohio, who preached the first sermon in the grove called "Ten Mile Grove" near the Hanley homestead. They sang at that meeting the forty-sixth and one hundred and twenty-first Psalms. Mr. Smart remained and preached the next Sabbath at Loda in a schoolhouse. Mrs. Margaret Hanley, who was visiting, was present at both of these meetings. An effort was made at the meeting of the church board in 1857 to secure aid and supplies, but failed. Application was then made to the Bloomington Presbytery, and they sent an aged man, Rev. Pollock, who preached two Sabbaths, and that was all of the preaching until the spring of 1858, when Rev. Hugh McHatten visited and preached for two Sabbaths, morning and night, in a little schoolhouse (the first in Paxton). During this year application was made to the general assembly for aid and for a minister, but again failed. Again application was made to the Presbytery, and were supplied about one-third of the time until the last of the year. The supplies were Revs. Brownlee, Black, Jeffries and Pinkerton. At a called meeting of the Bloomington Presbytery of the United Presbyterian Synod of Illinois, held in Peoria, August 23, 1859, J. W. Pinkerton was appointed to organize a congregation at Prospect City, Ford county, Illinois. On the first Sabbath of October, 1859, he preached by appointment, and on Monday, the 3d of October, 1859, the organization took place at the residence of Alexander Hanley. The following persons were admitted as members on certificate: Hugh Andrews, ruling elder, and Ruth Andrews, his wife; Eliza Law, their daughter, all from

the United Presbyterian congregation of Xenia, Ohio; from the same congregation, A. H. Hanley and Elizabeth K. Hanley, his wife; Miss Ella Hanley (afterward Mrs. McElroy) his sister; Margaret Hanley, his mother; and Miss Belle Alexander, from the United Presbyterian congregation of Cedarville, Ohio. Mr. Hugh Andrews was elected elder. The following came into the church by profession, as they did not have their certificates in possession: Alexander L. Elliott, William McClelland, James Canning and Mary Canning, his wife. Then the following persons were chosen ruling elders: A. H. Hanley, A. L. Elliott and William McClelland. At the next meeting of the Presbytery, Rev. Pinkerton was examined and ordained. Next Saturday, October 8, prior to communion, J. M. Hanley was admitted by examination. Rev. Hugh McHatten was sent once a year to Paxton to preach. This was now 1860. Two hundred and fifty dollars was received from the board and now services were held and regular prayer meetings in Hanley's Hall. In March, 1861, Rev. R. McCracken was called. There were nineteen or twenty members. The church grew rapidly, and June 29 following, there were thirty-eight communicants and twenty-two families. Rev. John Trusdale was next called. The courthouse now being finished, members worshiped there till the church edifice was built. Union prayer meetings were held those days. During Rev. Trusdale's ministry the church edifice was dedicated in 1867. The dedication sermon was preached by Dr. Wallace, then president of Monmouth College. The audience was very large and liberally assisted in wiping out a portion of the indebtedness. The original cost of the building was about nine thousand, which was entirely erased during the ministration of Rev. E. D. Campbell. In 1871, Rev. Trusdale was released, leaving one hundred and seventy-five members. The church had supplies until 1872, when a call was made to Rev. William Richie and accepted by him October 8. He labored earnestly until 1877, beginning with one hundred and twenty members and leaving one hundred and forty-six. Again the church had supplies until a call was accepted by Rev. E. D. Campbell, who was under shepherd for about three years. A lecture room was built and furnished, where prayer meetings were held; it was used also by the infant Sunday school class. The audience room was newly carpeted, and various other improvements were made. Rev. E. D. Campbell and his amiable wife were zealous, Christian workers. He was reluctantly released in the spring of 1881 and again there were supplies until the fall of the same year, when a call unanimously made to Rev. T. G. Morrow was accepted by him. Since then the church has continued to prosper and increase in membership. About 1900, a new church edifice was built at a

cost of fifteen thousand dollars, and possibly by the time this goes into type, a pipe organ will have been installed.

SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, PAXTON.

In 1863 the directors of the Augustana College and Theological Seminary concluded to remove that institution from Chicago, Illinois. An offer from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, giving some inducements in lands, was accepted, and accordingly the above named institution was located at Paxton, Illinois.

Soon after this the Swedes emigrated here very fast. On the 3d day of June, 1863, Dr. T. N. Hasselquist called a meeting for the purpose of organizing a congregation, which meeting was held, and the organization accomplished.

The constitution of the Augustana Synod was adopted and the following officers were elected: Dr. Hasselquist, pastor; P. Erickson, secretary; Eric Carlson, C. M. Johnson and Emanuel Collins, trustees; P. Peterson, S. Randall, C. Anderson, N. B. Nelson, J. Olson and Ewan Anderson, deacons.

Until 1865, the services were held in the public school building. This building was finally purchased, and put in suitable order for the place of worship. As the membership increased rapidly, it was soon found to be too small, and, in 1872, a church was built. This building was forty-five by one hundred feet, with a spire one hundred feet high. The cost was over ten thousand dollars with an additional expense of seven hundred dollars for seats. In 1884, a new pipe organ was purchased for twelve hundred dollars. Besides the regular church building, the congregation had a schoolhouse worth one thousand dollars.

After 1874, when the Augustana College was removed to Rock Island, Illinois, a large number of the Swedish citizens left Paxton for Rock Island. This reduced the church membership, and three years later a few went out of the congregation, and started what is known as the Mission church, so that in 1879 the members numbered only three hundred to four hundred.

The founder of the congregation, Professor T. N. Hasselquist, was its pastor until 1874, at which time he was obliged to leave and follow the Augustana College and Theological Seminary to Rock Island, having been president of that institution for nearly a quarter of a century.

This congregation built and dedicated in 1908, a handsome new church edifice, at a cost of about thirty thousand dollars, and at the same time bought a pipe organ for twenty-three hundred dollars.

THE SWEDISH LUTHERAN MISSION CHURCH, PAXTON.

This church was organized in November, 1878, with a membership of seventy. Rev. A. P. Palmquist was the first pastor. For a time services were held in a hall until the present church lots were purchased at an expense of six hundred dollars, and a church building was erected at an expense of one thousand five hundred dollars.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PAXTON.

This church was organized November 1, 1867, by a committee of the Presbytery of Bloomington, consisting of Rev. Alexander G. Wilson and Elder W. P. Pierson.

The organization was made in response to a petition from a number of the residents of Paxton, who, having been reared as Presbyterians, desired to continue in that faith and order. Twenty-three persons were received by letter from various churches, principally in Pennsylvania and Ohio. The Sabbath following, Joseph E. Hall and Charles R. Strauss were ordained and installed elders of the new church, and Benjamin Q. Cherry and James D. Kilgore, deacons.

The place of organization was Clark's Hall; and services were continued there until July, 1873, when the congregation moved into their new house of worship, erected on the southeast corner of Vermilion and Center streets.

The two lots on which it stands were donated by Mr. William Pells, and the church, in addition to their own struggle with limited means, had the kindly assistance of several persons not members, in the erection of the building. It was in the Gothic style, with rose-windows in the front and rear, and colored windows on each side, the latter the gift of individuals and of classes in the Sabbath school, and of some of the sister churches in the town.

For the first year preaching was enjoyed about once a month. In the spring of 1869, Rev. J. A. Calhoun was elected the first pastor and continued his services one year. From July, 1870, to April, 1871, Rev. Mr. Noerr ministered to the people. Different ministers supplied in the interim between April, 1871, and 1872. In the spring of 1872, Rev. J. L. McNair was elected pastor and was with the church until April, 1875. Another vacancy dependent on supplies, during which Rev. C. H. Blanchard supplied the church one year. Rev. A. F. Irwin served as pastor from April, 1877, to January 1,



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GIBSON CITY

1881. The ensuing year, Rev. E. B. Miner served as stated supply. In November, 1882, Rev. John Barbour commenced supplying the pulpit and remained with the church until April, 1884, from April, 1883, as pastor-elect. The present church edifice was erected in 1902.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF GIBSON.

This church was organized April, 1872. F. S. Church, Mrs. F. S. Church, Mrs. Mary Cornell, Mrs. Mary Davis, James Elliott, Mrs. James Elliott, Joseph H. Elliott, E. Haas, Mrs. E. Haas, W. T. Kerr, Mrs. W. T. Kerr, Mrs. William Moyer, Mrs. Lucy Robbins, Charles E. Wilson, Mrs. Charles E. Wilson and a few others composed the first membership. N. L. Sears, Mrs. N. L. Sears, Austin Crabbs, Mrs. Austin Crabbs, M. T. Burwell, Mrs. M. T. Burwell, soon afterward united. The church edifice, valued at two thousand dollars, was erected in 1873. It was dedicated by Rev. Samuel Fallows, D. D., September, 1874. Rev. Job Ingram was the first pastor. The first trustees were James Elliott, F. S. Church, W. T. Kerr, E. Haas and Charles E. Wilson.

The trustees purchased a house for a parsonage in 1882, and made an extensive addition to it in the fall of 1883. The Sunday school was organized March, 1873.

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GIBSON.

This church was organized in 1877 by Rev. Aaron Ward. The original members were Mark Anthony, Melissa Anthony, Bettie Manson, Ellen Smith, Allen Spickard and wife. The church building was erected in 1879, the estimated value being six hundred dollars.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GIBSON.

The organization of this church took place on Saturday, October 28, 1871, in Union schoolhouse, five miles northwest of Gibson. Rev. R. A. Criswell, of Normal, Elders O. Scott, of Farmer City, and Henry Rayburn, of Saybrook, constituted the committee appointed by the Presbytery of Bloomington to effect the organization of the society. To the Rev. Criswell belongs the honor of calling the attention of the Presbytery to this field for the establishment of a church, and to his faithful labors in earlier years its existence is due. The original members were Fabius Fleming, Mary B. Fleming, William S. Graham,

Ruth S. Graham, Ruth E. Gilmore, Martha Moyer, J. Wiley Moore, Isabelle H. Moore, Sarah E. McKeener, David Newman, James Parr, Mrs. E. F. Parr, John W. Rodgers, James M. Sudduth, Amanda Sudduth, Alice Sudduth, Sarah J. West, William Sudduth. Some time in July, 1874, the foundation of a Gothic frame, designed by G. P. Randall, of Chicago, was laid, but, owing to a threatened failure of the corn crop, work was postponed until September, when, the prospect looking brighter, work was resumed; but various and vexatious delays prevented the completion until July, 1875. The building was valued at three thousand five hundred dollars, and furniture at about eight hundred dollars. The Rev. R. A. Criswell acted as pastor from the organization until October, 1875. Thereafter, for three years, the congregation was dependent upon temporary supplies—chiefly students from the Northwestern Theological Seminary. Rev. F. W. Iddings acted as pastor for about six months during this time, and Rev. R. M. Stevenson about one year. In the spring of 1878, Rev. T. F. Boyd was called as pastor, and served nearly a year. In the spring of 1879, Rev. H. Vallette Warren assumed pastoral charge of the church. The original elders were J. Wiley Moore, Fabius Fleming. Mr. Fleming served for eight years. The deacons were James Parr and John W. Rodgers, the latter serving three years.

In 1905, a new church edifice was erected, at a cost of twenty thousand dollars.

It may not be out of place to mention here some of the difficulties which opposed the church in its early history, taken from a brief sketch written by Dr. J. M. Waters: "The congregation was widely scattered through the country, the roads being new and frequently impassable, and there were so few members in town that it seemed impracticable to sustain a prayer meeting. When there was preaching it was only on alternate Sabbaths, and the minister was unable to spend much time beyond the Sabbath with them. The elders, like everybody else in the new community, were busy with necessary secular work, and for a long time the congregation hardly knew such a thing as pastoral care.

"The members meeting only on the Sabbath, and often prevented for long periods from this by unfavorable weather and bad roads, remained almost strangers to each other, and were slow to acquire that sympathy and confidence in each other which better acquaintance would have bred. For such causes they sometimes felt even weaker than they really were. The members were poor, almost all in debt, and these early years of the church were times of general financial stringency, becoming gradually worse. In the winter of 1876, men of good credit paid eighteen per cent in bank for money."

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GIBSON.

The Cumberland Presbyterian church of Gibson was formerly organized under the name of the Hopewell congregation, at Drummer Grove schoolhouse, one mile northwest of Gibson. The original organization was effected December 19, 1868, by the Rev. J. R. Lowrance, who afterward moved to Lincoln, Illinois, with the following members, twenty-two in all: James Houston, Matthew Speedie, Isabelle Speedie, James M. More, James J. Houston, Jane J. Houston, Catharine Gilchrist, William S. Thompson, Agnes M. Thompson, B. H. McClure, Susan E. McClure, Hattie N. McClure, Finis W. McClure, Francis McClure, Augusta McClure, T. B. Crigler, Sarah Crigler, Martha More, Ann Arigler. Under the care of Mackinaw Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, yet without a settled pastor, the congregation continued to worship at the above named schoolhouse until the winter of 1872, when the need of a church building more fully asserted itself. Accordingly, at a meeting of the congregation on the 14th of April, 1873, it was determined to enter at once upon the erection of a suitable house for worship, and three trustees were elected, subscriptions taken, and the work started. The names of the trustees elected at this meeting were: John T. McClure, Winston Meeks and T. D. Spaulding. Agreeable to the genius of the vote of the meeting of April 14, 1873, the building was erected at a cost of two thousand six hundred dollars.

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST OF GIBSON.

In the year 1875, the quarterly conference of the Elliott charge appointed a board of trustees, consisting of C. J. Buchmer, J. C. Thornton, Peter Maine, Sr., Rev. L. L. Rinehart, and John Wagner, Esq., to take under advisement the feasibility of building a church house for the United Brethren in Christ in Gibson. There was at this time no society of said church in Gibson, and only one of the newly appointed trustees lived there. In the following August Mr. C. J. Buchmer, seconded by only a few friends, began the erection of what is now known as the "Brethren Church in Gibson," and on the 8th day of January following, 1876, it was finished and dedicated to the service of God.

This thenceforth became one of the appointments of the Elliott charge, the other three were Elliot, Antioch schoolhouse and the Wagner appointment. Rev. F. R. Mitchel was the pastor, serving his second year on the charge. During the year 1876, he organized a United Brethren society in Gibson, consisting of the following members: C. J. Buchmer and wife, Mrs. Mary Emmons,

Peter and Elizabeth Maine, husband and wife, Mr. M. Kerr and wife, Rev. L. L. Rinehart and wife, and two children, Miss Hattie and Sammel, Howard Griffith, Elizabeth Griffith, Laura Griffith, Sidna Griffith and Maria Griffith, and Mr. J. E. Sheffer.

Remaining a part of the Elliott charge until the fall of 1883, when it was made a station, it was favored with preaching, on an average, once in two weeks.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

This church was built in 1891, at a cost of ten thousand dollars.

Other churches in Gibson all practically rebuilt within the past few years.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF GIBSON.

This church was organized at Gibson in 1875. The original members were John Delaney, John Sutton, Thomas Tierney, Patrick Harty, Michael Harty, Con Hardigan, James Molloy, John Donnelly, Michael Donovan, Michael Ryan, John and Jeff New, John Garden and others to the number of twenty-five.

In 1876, the church building was erected at a cost of one thousand one hundred dollars.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ROBERTS.

Until 1875, there was no Congregational church in Lyman township. Rev. Wilcox, father of M. H. Wilcox, preached at stated times in the Smith school-house in the northern part of Lyman township, and the people generally attended service regardless of denominational differences but no organization existed.

The Congregational church of Roberts was organized October 24, 1875, with the following exercises: Sermon and reading of covenant by the Rev. J. E. Ray, D. D.; prayer by A. D. Wyckoff, and right hand of fellowship by Rev. J. J. Weage.

The membership at the time of organization was very small, consisting of only ten persons: A. D. Wyckoff, George H. Thompson, Mary E. Thompson, W. S. Larkin, Elizabeth Larkin, John Hummel, Sarah M. Hummel, Frank Butler, Lucy Larkin and Olive Larkin.

The first business meeting of the church was held at the house of G. H. Thompson, October 31, 1875. At this meeting, G. H. Thompson and John

Himmel were elected deacons. W. S. Larkin was elected trustee of the church for three years, and W. A. Kearney and J. B. Meserve, respectively two and one years, were elected trustees of the Congregational society. Frank Butler was elected clerk.

On the 6th of November, 1875, C. Manton, who the following year removed to Texas, united with the church on profession of faith. This was the first accession of the church. The small body, in connection with the Congregational church at Thawville, struggled on as best it could, receiving annually Home Missionary aid.

In March, 1877, the church received its second accession of membership, consisting of the following persons: G. B. Mahaffey, Walter Davis, E. M. Mahaffey, Nellie D. Mahaffey, Helen L. Wyckoff, Amanda Emmons, F. G. Lohman and Louisa Tapp.

During the first four years of its existence, the society had no house of worship, but the services were held in the town hall.

In the fall of 1879, a church building, forty by fifty-five feet, was begun. This building was completed in May, 1880, and dedicated to the worship of God, May 16, 1880, free from all incumbrances.

Since its organization, the church has been blessed with earnest, efficient pastors, who considered the work of saving souls paramount to everything else.

May 17, 1908, a handsome new Congregational church was dedicated with impressive ceremonies. The dedication was the crowning event that marked the close of the labors of the members of the congregation, who have been indefatigable in their work and self-denial in order to obtain the necessary funds to complete the work. The decorations were elaborate and the church was crowded with members of the congregation, friends and numerous former members who now reside in other places but returned to participate in the services. A number of former pastors also wrote letters of congratulation to the members on their success. One service was held at 10:30 A. M. and another at 3:30 P. M. Rev. G. G. McCullom, of Chicago, preached at each service, and there was an elaborate musical program at each service. The church was dedicated free from debt.

ZION METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (GERMAN).

The Methodist Episcopal church organized German missions as early as 1868, with headquarters at Odell, Livingston county; later at Buckley, Iroquois

county. Services were held at private houses, and then, as the membership increased, in the public schoolhouses.

When the village of Roberts came to be, it was resolved to build a church. The first board of trustees, consisting of John Grube, Frank Bastian, Henry Michaelis, John Wieting and Fred Haug, with their pastor, Rev. Fr. Meier, as chairman, on the 18th day of February, 1873, passed a resolution to that effect and acted upon it accordingly, building a church, with spire, that cost nearly two thousand four hundred dollars, being the first house of worship erected in the village of Roberts. But its old and trusted members have left—emigrated to Dakota, Iowa and Texas.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ROBERTS.

This church was formerly a part of Pierce's Mission as described in the account of the Methodist church at Melvin. The first preaching place was Graham's schoolhouse, and was changed to Roberts in 1871. The members of the first class were Ole Johnson, leader; Anna Johnson, Edward Van Steenbergh, Emily Van Steenbergh, Jennie Van Steenbergh, J. H. Sedore, Mrs. A. A. Sedore, Abraham Sedore, George P. Lyman, Helen Lyman, Alfred Smith, Julius Smith, Horace Lester, Hannah Lester, John Kenward, Nancy Kenward, William Kenward, Julius Walker, Joel Westbrook, Patience Westbrook, Horace Snelling, Jane Snelling, Robert Hawthorn, Sarah Arnold, Thomas Darg, James English, Charles Koon, John Kenward, Jr., Hamilton Darg and Caroline Guise. They held their meetings in the public schoolhouse at Roberts, until January 6, 1882, when they completed a very neat church at a cost of two thousand eight hundred dollars. This church was dedicated by G. W. Gue, presiding elder. The first board of trustees consisted of Thomas Wakelin, M. H. Rice, G. B. Gordon, G. P. Lyman and E. Van Steenbergh.

ZION GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, LYMAN TOWNSHIP.

Report of the Evangelical Association Mission work in Ford county: In the year of our Lord, 1865, the Illinois Conference of this denomination met at Washington, Tazewell county, Illinois. This conference, at this session, created a new mission in the counties of Livingston, McLean and Ford. Rev. F. C. Stuewig was the first missionary, in this important mission, to carry on the Lord's work. He settled down with his family in the little station of Chatsworth, Livingston county, Illinois. The mission in Ford county began on the

7th day of June, 1865. The first visit was made at Brother Peter Pfaad's. Brother Pfaad came here with his family in the year 1858, from Lyons, New York. Mr. Stnewig then began to hold service every three weeks in the P. Russell schoolhouse, and also in the house of Kathrine Althen. On his second visit he became acquainted with the following persons: Kathrine Althen and family, Christian Moser, Annie Wilcoxson and other German people who lived in that community. The following winter he held a protracted meeting with good success. On the 13th of February, 1866, he organized the first German class in this new mission, with the following persons as members: Peter Pfaad, Margret Pfaad, Kathrine Althen, Margret Leber, George Barreck, Louisa Barreck, Lydia Barreck, Cathrene Barreck, Christian Moser, Annie Wilcoxson. Peter Pfaad was the first class leader. German people came to see the country, and, being pleased with the prairie land, many bought homes and settled here. This was a help to the small society, its membership grew rapidly, and by the help of God they were able to build a church in the year of our Lord, 1873. The church was dedicated by Bishop J. J. Esher.

The preacher in charge at this time was Rev. J. Kurtz. The first officers in Zion Church Evangelical Association were the following: Rev. Henry Baker, Daniel Raabe, Abraham Shaffer, Christian Stutzman, Peter Pfaad.

UNION METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH, DIX TOWNSHIP.

This society began its existence in Champaign county about one-half mile south of where the church building now stands on the southeast corner of the north half of section 31. The first services held in this county were in the Union schoolhouse, one-half mile north of the church, under the pastorate of Rev. J. Krapps, in 1874. Among the original members were J. Cranston and wife, Mrs. J. Daniels, Mrs. J. Barker, Mrs. D. Metcalf and Mrs. G. Waggoner. After the pastoral term of Rev. Krapps, the Annual Conference sent Rev. R. E. Fox. The erection of the church building commenced in the fall of 1881, and was completed and dedicated in the summer of 1882. The building cost about twelve hundred dollars, and stands as a monument to the generosity of the entire community. The first trustees elected August 30, 1881, were M. W. Scott, J. G. Barker, Henry Shields, J. Daniels and William Day.

THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, DIX TOWNSHIP.

The first Norwegians to settle in this county were Christopher Ryerson and Henry Halverson. They came here from Otter Creek, La Salle county,

Illinois, and located some four or five miles northwest from Elliott. Our best information is that they came here about 1866. They were followed by Abel Hanson in 1871. Mr. Hanson formerly lived in or near Lisbon, Kendall county, Illinois. He at first rented lands, but, having succeeded reasonably well, he bought eighty acres one mile south of Elliott.

Tolleff Thompson, also from Lisbon, is the next in order. Like Mr. Hanson, he also rented lands to begin with, but a few years of hard work made it possible for him to become the owner of a fine farm a few miles southeast of Elliott.

John A. Hattberg and Ole Natterstad bought land, and settled three miles southeast from Elliott, in the year 1875.

These two were followed in turn by Thomas Pederson, Osmon Osmonson and Halward Osmonson.

Ford county had by this time become famous to the people around Lisbon, Illinois, and a general "exodus" to this county took place in the years that followed. Most of the Norwegians round about Elliott are from Kendall and Grundy counties, in this state. Perhaps one-fourth came direct from Norway. The Norwegians are of a very pious turn of mind. They are strictly honest, industrious and thriving. One of their number says that "with them the all-absorbing topics when they meet are religion, the weather and the crops." Their prosperity is surprising to a native American of the easy-going sort.

They had not been here long before they organized themselves into a congregation. The first step in this direction was made in 1876. Rev. Iverson gathered a flock of the faithful, and continued to preach for them at intervals for a portion of the years 1876 and 1877. He was succeeded by Rev. G. J. Omland, a graduate from the Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical Theological Seminary at Minneapolis, Minnesota, to which denomination this congregation belongs. Rev. Omland was their pastor from 1877 to 1881. Their place of meeting had been, previous to 1881, in what are known as the Kleppa and Bunch schoolhouses, districts 6 and 7.

But in the year 1881, they built a modest structure on section 25, town 23 (Dix) which has since been their customary place of worship. The building is fifty-six feet long, thirty-six feet wide, and eighteen feet high, with a steeple towering seventy feet into the sky. The work was chiefly done by members of the congregation, gratis of course, superintended by Charles Johnson, Thor O. Thorson and the Seim Brothers. The total cost was three thousand dollars, two-thirds of which was raised immediately by voluntary subscription; 1883 witnessed the erection of a neat and snug building for the pastor's resi-



ORGAN, M. E. CHURCH, PAXTON



dence. Total cost of this, including ten acres of land, was twelve hundred dollars. The parsonage is one-half mile west of the church, on section 26.

OTHER CHURCHES.

At Farmersville, in the midst of a remarkably flourishing settlement of Swedes, is a prosperous church of Swedish Lutherans. The church building located on section 30, Patton township, is a commodious structure. There is also a well built parsonage. This church is in a very satisfactory condition.

At Gibson are two Swedish churches, one of them being the Swedish Lutheran and the other of the Swedish Mission. These societies have houses of worship.

MT. OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BUTTON TOWNSHIP.

From the earliest settlement of the locality now included in Button township, the Christian denomination had its ministers early on the ground. In fact, some of these ministers were among the pioneer settlers. The several organizations or societies of this denomination were in 1871 reorganized and united under the name given at the head of this article.

The church building was dedicated December 10, 1871, the dedication sermon being delivered by Elder R. M. Martin, of Danville, Illinois. The membership of the organization numbered about forty, which are as follows: Marston Dudley, Milton Strayer, John M. Strayer, T. B. Strayer, William Walker, David Morehouse, W. H. H. Wood, J. A. Dudley, Henry Correll, John Correll, Joseph Harris, John B. Harris, Daniel Allhands, and their wives, also Sarah Button, Elizabeth Strayer, Mary E. Spiceard, F. L. Holloway, M. E. Dudley, S. J. Strayer, Dora Strayer, Mary Strayer, Sarah O. Walker, Oswell H. Walker, and Mrs. Glotfelter.

Soon after the dedicatory services, the organization was perfected with the following officers: Elder R. M. Martin, pastor; Marston Dudley and William Walker, elders; Harmon Strayer and T. B. Strayer, deacons.

The church edifice which is situated on a handsome knoll in South Button, is of brick. It is thirty by forty feet, with sixteen feet to ceiling.

SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, SIBLEY.

This church was organized at Sibley (then Burr Oaks) January 6, 1879. Nils Polson and Gust Fager were the first deacons elected. Swen Anderson

and C. L. Seaholm were the first trustees, and Swen Anderson was the first secretary. The congregation was organized under the leadership of Pastor O. Tjamsland, and is under and within the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Synod of United States of America.

CHURCH OF GOD, ROGERS TOWNSHIP.

This church was organized September 26, 1869. The names of the original members are D. F. Breneisa, Peter Minich, Samuel Leopold, Joseph Leopold, R. C. Breneisa, Henry Kaufman, Joseph Imhoff, John Geen, Mrs. Susan Minich, Miss Emma Minich, Mrs. Sarah A. Leopold, Mrs. Anna Breneisa, Mrs. Catharine Leopold, Mrs. Mary Imhoff, Miss Kate Breneisa, Miss Fannie Breneisa, Mrs. Fred Falter.

The Union Bethel was built in the spring of 1873, at a cost of five hundred dollars. The house was dedicated by Elder J. M. Cassel.

Elder William Smith preached from October, 1869, to October, 1872; Elder J. M. Cassel preached from October, 1872, to October, 1874; Elder W. B. Allen preached from October, 1874, to October, 1876; Elder George Cutler preached from October, 1876, to October, 1877; Elder W. A. Smith preached from October, 1877, to October, 1878; Elder A. J. Fenton preached from October, 1878, to October, 1880; Elders John Burnard and Oscar Huston preached from October, 1880, to October, 1881; Elder W. A. Smith preached from October, 1881, to October, 1884.

This society reject infant baptism, and practice immersion and the literal washing of the saints' feet as appointed ordinances, and believe in the personal reign of Christ. They reject all creeds and take the New Testament for their discipline.

In 1884, the Church of God built a college at Findlay, Ohio, at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars.

KEMPTON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The organization known as Sugar Loaf appointment of the Methodist Episcopal church was first effected in the fall of 1872, in what was called the Bute schoolhouse, in district No. 3, Mona township. Previous to this time, there had been occasional preaching in that neighborhood by Rev. Michael Lewis, better known as Father Lewis.

There were but few members at first, but these took hold in earnest, and soon others came in, forming a larger and more firmly established organization. The original members of this church were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. George Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. James Wade, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Heavisides, Mrs. Jackson Bute, Mrs. David Keighin, Mr. and Mrs. George Evans, Father Lewis and wife.

Until the town hall was built, the society worshiped in the Bute school-house, but after completion of the hall in 1877, the meetings were held there. When the village of Kempton sprang up in 1877, the place of worship was transferred to a hall in the village. In the fall of 1881, steps were taken to build a house of worship in Kempton; the following spring the work was commenced, resulting in the erection of a neat and commodious church edifice, costing about two thousand dollars.

The first pastor of the church was Rev. J. D. Calhoun, who preached one year; this was his first appointment. He was followed by Rev. Rutledge, who was in charge for a year. The next pastor was Rev. Woodward, who remained one year; and his successor was Rev. J. A. Flowers, whose term lasted two years. Following him came Rev. Wilson, who preached two years. Rev. Joe Bell succeeded him and was in charge three years.

Robert Lewin, Thomas Heavisides, Andrew Stuart and Thomas Shaw have acted as stewards at various times.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MELVIN.

This church was first organized November 26, 1871. It sprung from what was known as Pierce's Mission. Father Pierce, an old Scotch local preacher living at "Olive Grove," came into Peach Orchard township and established a regular preaching place at Grand Prairie schoolhouse in 1869, which, with similar preaching places in neighboring townships was called Pierce's Mission. When the village of Melvin was started the Grand Prairie appointment was moved to Melvin. Its name was changed to the Methodist Episcopal church, with Rev. T. P. Henry as first pastor on a circuit of three appointments, namely, Melvin, Roberts and Bell schoolhouse. Ole Johnson, James Dixon, Charles Phillips and T. D. Thompson, being the first board of stewards, Charles Phillips, Mary Phillips, William Thompson, T. D. Thompson, Mrs. T. D. Thompson, Alexander Stevens, Mariah Stevens and Jane Ogden forming the first class at Melvin, with Charles Phillips as leader. Meetings were held in the schoolhouse and hall until the fall of 1879, when the society

began the erection of a church, which was completed in the spring of 1880, at a cost of two thousand four hundred dollars, and dedicated June 20, 1880, by W. H. H. Adams, president of the Wesleyan University of Bloomington, Illinois; Thomas Fletcher, Alex Yarbrough, L. S. Heath, Henry Halverson, J. H. Higgason, W. J. Hunt, J. M. Thompson and T. D. Thompson, being the first board of trustees.

THE GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL SOCIETY OF MELVIN.

This society was organized in Peach Orchard township in 1870, with ten members, by Rev. E. J. Funk of Chicago German Conference.

The first class was composed of the following members: H. Durringer and wife, Ties Arends and wife, George O. Arends and wife, A. Hellman and wife, and Gerhard Defries and wife. Meetings were first held at farm houses. After the village of Melvin was started, they moved into town. In 1875 they bought the old schoolhouse which stood a half mile south of town, moved it up into town, fitted it up, and used it for church until 1881, when they built a new church at a cost of one thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars. It was dedicated November 20, by Peter Hinners, of Chicago.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, MELVIN.

The name of the organization is as above stated, but it is called St. Peter's congregation. This society was organized October 20, 1872. The original members were F. Beck, M. Otto, H. Schnelle, H. Spellmeyer, W. Fabel, H. Steinman, M. Imm, O. Defries, W. Hafer, F. Bretting, J. Hinse, G. Beck, A. Loeinga, R. Freese, A. Mohr. These members erected a building in the spring of 1873, valued at eleven hundred dollars.

From the time of organization until July 5, 1875, Rev. Simon Surj was minister of the congregation. From the latter date until April 7, 1878, Rev. H. Hebler was the minister.

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH, ELLIOTT.

This church was organized two and a half miles north from Elliott, at Samuel Todd's house, in the winter of 1862. The original members were Samuel and Nancy Todd, Jackson and America Pitser, Peter Beatty and wife, John Wallace's family, John and Jemima Cooder, Jesse and Rosanna Todd,

Messrs. Darg, Hawthorne, Trickle and their wives, John Keesey and wife, John McBride and wife, and others to the number of forty.

In 1872 a church was erected in the village of Elliott at a cost of one thousand dollars.

FORD COUNTY NEWSPAPERS.

BY EDGAR N. STEVENS.

The history of the newspapers of Ford county, and especially those of Paxton, has been one of successes and reverses, of hard struggle for existence, and brilliant victory in the face of defiant opposition. The newspaper business is an occupation in which is brought into play some of the best and keenest qualities of a man's nature, and in which may also be displayed, on occasion, some of the lowest characteristics. It, in fact, may be represented as a battle, in which the cohorts are brought face to face with one another in a war of words, and in which he who holds the best command of himself and his forces is sure to prevail. The hosts of sin are encamped on one side, and the forces of good upon the other, and the weal or woe, the destiny of a town or city, or it may be of a nation, may rest upon the conduct of a single newspaper. It is a potent factor for good or ill in any community, which is an all-important reason that it should be in the hands of men of brains, who have the good and not the ill of the community at heart, and who will work for its upbuilding and best interests.

The first paper established in Ford county of which we have any record, was the Ford County Union, started in the year 1864, and which had a precarious existence of only a few months, when it was purchased by N. E. Stevens, in February, 1865. He changed the name to the Paxton Record, and has continued its publication ever since. The policy of the paper has been uncompromisingly republican from its very foundation, even from the time when the country was closing a war that threatened its very life blood. Through nineteen years of changing life, through seasons of adversity, of bitter strife and debate, as well as in the more pleasant times of peace, it has steadily pressed forward until the present time, and now stands on a firm basis of assured prosperity, demonstrating the fact that continuous policy is the best for a country newspaper. In 1881, Mr. Stevens associated with him his son, Edgar N. Stevens, and the paper has been continued since under the firm

name of N. E. Stevens & Son, with no change in the policy of the paper. The paper now occupies a building of its own on north Market street, a good location, and is enjoying a season of unwonted prosperity.

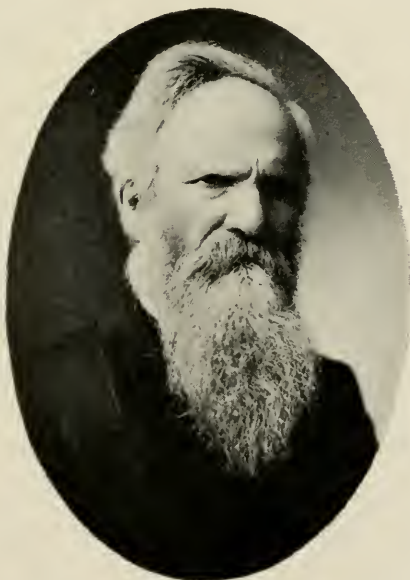
The Stevens, in the fall of 1897, started a daily paper and are running it at this time. It is a seven column folio.

The Ford County Liberal, conducted by Charles D. Sibley, was the next paper issued in Paxton. The first number was published on the 17th day of August, 1872. It was an eight column folio, neatly printed and ably edited. In October of the same year, Thomas Wolfe became associated with Mr. Sibley in the editorial management of the paper, and in the following month took full possession. The aim of this sheet was to furnish a live, local paper, that should chronicle all the news of the day, and at the same time furnish its Liberal and Greenback friends with arguments for their cause. The office was on a paying basis, when, in October, 1874, under the management of Messrs. Wolfe & Dodd, the building occupied and its effects were burned. The paper was never resurrected.

The Ford County Blade was the child of a day, started by Messrs. Creed & Doxsey, of Bloomington, on the 1st day of July, 1876, upon the supposition that Paxton needed another local paper and to awaken a deeper interest in politics among the democratic fraternity in this immediate vicinity. This firm published a newsy local paper for the brief term of twenty-four weeks, but was finally obliged to succumb to the inevitable. On the 9th day of December of the same year, the past paper was issued. The failure to establish a paper was ascribed to the fact that the business was not here to support two live papers—evidently a sensible conclusion. Among others to whom credit was given by this firm for favors shown, was Mr. Stevens, of the Record.

Nearly a year elapsed before the next paper appeared, when another firm from Bloomington put in the material for a job and newspaper office. Messrs. Holmes & Colvin christened their paper the Ford County News, and on the 3d of November, 1877, started out from a republican standpoint to publish a paper well tinged with that doctrine, and also to make it replete with general local matter. The last issue appeared on the 19th of January, 1878, these parties having found that the field of republicanism in the county was well occupied.

The Weekly Standard, by the same publishers, appeared on the 26th of January, 1878. Like the two other papers last mentioned, it was five column quarto, and, in reality, a continuance of the News, but espoused the Greenback cause. The Standard was longer lived than its immediate predecessors, and



N. E. STEVENS, EDITOR PAXTON RECORD SINCE JANU-
ARY 1, 1865

hung on with a pertinacity worthy of a better cause until 1879, when it succumbed to the inevitable, the field not being broad enough for its proper support.

The first edition of the Appeal was published on the 26th of November, 1879. It was an organ of the Greenback party, with Thomas Wolfe as editor, and B. F. Hill, publisher. About the 1st of September, 1880, the property was purchased by J. C. Dunham, who, in January, 1881, changed the name of the paper to the Eastern Illinois Register. The policy of the paper was announced as Greenback. This is an independent democratic paper, published at Paxton. It is the result of a consolidation of the Loda Register, Gilman Sun, Paxton Appeal and Gibson Press, the first of which was established in 1875, by J. C. Dunham. J. Wallace Dunnan took charge of the paper in 1900, and has ably edited it up to the present time.

The Pan-Handle Advocate was started April 20, 1883, by F. H. Robertson. During the succeeding summer Judge Beach succeeded Mr. Robertson in the proprietorship of the paper. It is a six column quarto. It has been an independent journal, a paper expressly for the people, clean, straightforward and thoroughly representative, social, religious, political, industrial, etc. In short, it aspires to be the family paper per se. H. P. Beach is its editor today.

Burt E. Burroughs, of Cabery, was the first publisher of the Cabery Enquirer. It was established in 1883. It is now controlled and edited by William R. Watts.

The Gibson Enterprise was founded by P. A. Coal, now postmaster at Gibson City, in 1882. He conducted the business in a prosperous manner for eighteen years, or until 1903, when Woolley Brothers, the present proprietors, purchased the plant. They immediately secured a brick building on First street, where the business is now conducted. The Enterprise is one of a chain of three papers published by Woolley Brothers, the other publications being the Saybrook Gazette and the Arrowsmith News. The firm of Woolley Brothers is composed of Frank Woolley, George A. Woolley and Arthur B. Woolley. The Enterprise is edited by George A. Woolley.

The Sibley Index came into existence about January 1st, 1880, and was established by P. A. Coal. For some time H. W. Rodman was its editor. He was succeeded by M. T. Hyer. Sibley is now depending on the Sibley Journal to keep it informed of current events. The Journal was established in 1897, by the Sibley Publishing Company. Its present editor is Judson Chubbuck.

The Gibson Enterprise was established by N. E. Stevens, in the spring of 1872. It was the first paper ever published in Gibson. The printing was done in the office of the Record at Paxton. In the fall of 1873, the Enterprise was purchased by Walter Hoge, who changed the name to the Gibson Courier. Mr. Hoge conducted the paper until the winter of 1875, when E. Lowry became its owner and editor. Mr. Lowry was the editor of the Courier until 1885, when the paper passed into the hands of N. F. Cunningham and John C. Mallory. With indifferent success, the paper was published by these gentlemen for about a year, when Mr. Lowry bought it back and edited the sheet until 1897. At the time just mentioned, the concern was purchased by C. E. and J. P. Lowry, sons of the above, who are now in active control and giving the people of the county the local news and one of the best papers in this section of Illinois.

THE PIPER CITY ADVERTISER.

The Piper City Advertiser was founded by Henry Allnutt, who located in Ford county in 1870, on a farm in Pella township. He removed to Piper City in 1873, bought a few handfuls of brier type, a quarto novelty press, and opened a job office. He was soon publishing the Advertiser, a four column folio, which made its first appearance in the summer of 1876. It was but a short time before it appeared as a six column folio. In 1883, it was changed to a five column quarto.

THE PIPER CITY JOURNAL.

The Piper City Journal was founded in 1897, by B. W. Kinsey. In 1900 it passed into the hands of Charles D. Gilpin, who is the present editor. It is a five column quarto, and is neutral in politics.

THE MELVIN TRANSCRIPT.

The Melvin Transcript was established in 1893, by W. O. Sanders, who is its present editor.

THE ROBERTS HERALD.

The Roberts Herald was founded in 1898, by W. O. Sanders, and is giving the people in that section of the county, all the news there is to be had.

PHYSICIANS OF FORD COUNTY.

The following facts are taken from the records of the county:

Samuel L. Baughman, Gibson City, graduated from the Chicago Medical College, March 2, 1876; school of practice, regular or allopathic.

James Y. Campbell, Paxton, graduated from Chicago Medical College, March 21, 1865; regular.

M. Cassingham, Roberts, graduated from the Rush Medical College, Chicago, February 16, 1865; regular.

S. D. Culbertson, Piper City, graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, March 10, 1866, regular.

L. B. Farrar, Paxton, graduated from Berkshire Medical College, Massachusetts, November 8, 1848; homeopathic.

Laura E. Farrar, Paxton, graduated from Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, 1872; homeopathic.

H. E. Farley, Cabery, graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, February 24, 1880; regular.

H. Gilborne, Cabery, graduated from Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, March 9, 1872; homeopathic.

J. I. Groves, Gibson City, graduated from Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, February 26, 1880; homeopathic.

N. Holton, Gibson City, graduated from Chicago Medical College, March 5, 1867; regular.

H. A. Kelso, Paxton, certificate State Board on twenty years' practice June 14, 1880; regular.

E. L. Kelso, Paxton, graduated from Chicago Medical College, March 27, 1883; regular.

Floyd O'Brien, Sibley, graduated from Rush Medical College, February 15, 1876; regular.

W. F. O'Brien, Piper City, examination by State Board July 6, 1881; regular.

E. B. Perry, Melvin, graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, February 24, 1880; regular.

John T. Ragsdale, Gibson City, graduated from American Eclectic College, St. Louis, January 26, 1875; eclectic.

Milton B. Swisher, Paxton, graduated from the Pulte Medical College, Cincinnati, March 6, 1883; homeopathic.

T. B. Strauss, Gibson City, examination by State Board, January 12, 1878; regular.

J. M. Waters, Gibson City, graduated from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, March 7, 1868; regular.

S. M. Wylie, Paxton, graduated from Chicago Medical College, March 5, 1878; regular.

John Wilson, Elliott, graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, February 21, 1882; regular.

T. R. Wiley, Gibson City, graduated from Rush Medical College, February 14, 1874; regular.

W. H. Watson, Cabery, graduated from Rush Medical College, February 16, 1875; regular.

The following physicians are now practicing in Ford county:

Paxton: Drs. S. M. Wylie, S. A. Lundgren, S. S. Fuller, E. L. Kelso, H. A. Kelso, R. J. Atwood, E. E. Hester, I. D. Kelschimer and James Mahan; Dr. Hartford, osteopath.

Roberts: Dr. B. J. Zahn.

Melvin: H. N. Boshell

Elliott: Dr. G. W. Rudolphi.

Clarence: J. B. Brown.

Sibley: Drs. A. A. Absher, Otto Finkensher.

FORD COUNTY BAR.

WRITTEN IN 1884.

Ex-County Judge David Patton was the pioneer lawyer of Ford county, having located at Ten Mile Grove, about three miles southwest of Paxton, in the latter part of October, 1853, while Ford was yet a part of Vermilion county. He was born in Clark county, Kentucky, in 1806, and emigrated to Butler county, Ohio, with his parents in 1810. At the age of eighteen he began the study of law in the office of Oliver H. Smith at Connersville, Indiana, and while so engaged in his studies, taught district school in the winter season to earn money to pay his current expenses. In October, 1828, he was admitted to the bar, and soon afterward began the active practice of his profession at La Fayette, Indiana, where, by his natural tact and close attention to business, he secured and held for ten years a large and lucrative practice. Frank,

upright and generous in disposition, he was held in high esteem by the people, and regarded as a leading lawyer by his professional brethren. His unguarded liberality, however, ultimately proved a snare to him financially. His earnings for the ten years were soon swept away in the payment of debts for his friends, and he was compelled to start anew in life. With this object in view, he turned his face and steps westward, and located on a choice tract of four hundred acres of land at the Grove above referred to. Population in his new home was too sparse to afford much profitable law business, and hence he turned his attention to farming and stock-raising, but his reputation as a lawyer soon came to the ears of his new neighbors and friends, and he was frequently called to maintain or defend their rights before the local magistrates. This he did with his former zeal and success. Not a few of the regulars in the profession could truthfully say they were completely surprised and often out-generated in these contests by this unassuming Hoosier farmer. To his efforts, the passage of the act of the legislature creating the county of Ford, and its subsequent organization, was largely due. At a special election, held in June, 1859, he was elected judge of the county court by a large majority over his opponent Gideon Camp. William Swinford, of Trickel's Grove, and Andrew J. Bartlett, of the Pan Handle, were chosen his associate justices. At the general elections in 1860, 1864 and 1868, the people called him to serve them in the same responsible office. Before the close of his fourth official term, the growing weight of years and his extensive real-estate interests in Illinois and other western states, convinced him that the remainder of his days should be devoted to private affairs, after having served the public so long and faithfully. The monetary panic of 1875, in connection with his losses as surety for some of his friends, again stripped him of nearly all his earthly possessions. But notwithstanding his misfortune in this particular, he had the higher and better consolation of having justly merited the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens by an active and useful life in their midst for more than thirty years. Those who knew him can cheerfully bear witness that the pioneer lawyer of Ford county in his younger years was a good lawyer, a quaint and entertaining speaker, and at all times a kind and indulgent parent, a friend of the poor and needy, an enterprising, public-spirited citizen, and above all, a steadfast lover of justice and humanity.

In February, 1860, J. B. BURROWS, a native of the Empire state, and a graduate of one of the leading colleges and law schools of the state of Pennsylvania, located in Paxton as a lawyer. Being a man of pleasing address, an uncommonly graceful and eloquent speaker, possessing a liberal education, able to write and

speak fluently in the French and German languages as well as in the mother tongue, he soon became known as a popular public speaker. His law practice grew rapidly from the start, and in a few months after his arrival he was employed in several important suits in Ford and adjoining counties. On the 4th day of July, 1860, he delivered to a large and attentive audience, on the grounds where the public high school building now stands in Paxton, the first oration ever made on Independence day in this city, and I doubt if its power and eloquence have ever been surpassed on a similar occasion in the county since then. Soon after this, he was employed by the order of Good Templars as state lecturer for the state of Illinois, which position he held until the spring of 1861. From the spring of 1855 until the autumn of 1858, he was editor in chief of an independent newspaper published in the city of New Orleans, one side of which was printed in the French language, and the other in the English, and in the presidential campaign of 1860, supported Bell and Everett for president and vice president. In that campaign Mr. Burrows made a number of political speeches at prominent points in the south in their behalf. In the meantime, he had become well acquainted with the political ideas and revolutionary designs entertained by her political leaders and the unanimity with which the masses of her people would support any attempt they might make to dissolve the Union, and hence when the roar of her hostile guns resounded over the north at the bombardment of Sumter, he at once insisted that a tremendous struggle for national existence was upon us. Soon after this, at the first meeting of the citizens of Paxton and vicinity to raise volunteers held in the schoolhouse, he made an eloquent appeal to his audience to forget past party affiliations, to "sink the partisan in the patriot" and rally as one man to the support of the national flag. In 1861 or 1862 he removed to Bloomington, Illinois, where he assisted in enlisting volunteers in that locality, and where he died in 1863.

In the summer of 1860, KENNEDY PRICE, a native of Hagerstown, Maryland, removed from Palo, Illinois, to Paxton, where he entered into copartnership with Henry Barnhouse, an old resident of the latter place, and at the time a justice of the peace, under the firm name of Price & Barnhouse, attorneys at law. Mr. Price was a descendant of one of the leading families of his native state.

He was well educated in his profession, liberal, jovial and courteous among his friends, and in that sense a true southern gentleman. In his address to the jury, he was of the fervent, fiery order, to the court he was deliberate and concise. His residence in Paxton was short. A firm believer in Calhoun doctrine of state rights, he naturally drifted into supporting the southern confed-

cracy, and in the fall of 1861 bade adieu to Paxton, and returned to his native place to take charge of the large property interests of his aged widowed mother, where, I am informed, he became a captain of the Confederate army in 1862.

DANIEL S. MORSE, a native of New Hampshire, and James A. Briggs, a native of Rochester, New York, having heard in their eastern homes that Prospect City, Ford county, Illinois, would soon prove a paradise for young lawyers, formed a copartnership under the firm name of Morse & Briggs, lawyers, and came to that noted city of the "grand prairie" in the summer of 1860, and tendered their services to whomsoever it might concern. Their anticipated rich harvest, however, yielded rather meager returns, and hence their stay was brief. In the latter part of the year 1861 Mr. Morse went to Chicago, and Mr. Briggs to Eureka, Woodford county, Illinois, where he resumed the practice of his profession in partnership with Judge Meek of that place.

During the years 1859-60, there strode into Prospect City at odd times an ungainly, verdant looking country lad, measuring fully six feet four and one-half inches in height, with broad, angular frame, having a large head thickly covered with short-cut, black bushy hair, rather small black eyes, high cheek bones, square, prominent chin, wide mouth and swarthy complexion, and unusual size, and whose abrupt manners and speech attracted the attention of nearly every one. Such is an imperfect description of the personal appearance of MARTIN V. ROSS, one of the prominent lawyers of the Paxton bar in bygone days. He was born near Greencastle, Indiana, and emigrated to east central Illinois about 1855, where he was mainly engaged as a farm laborer and school teacher until his admission to the bar in 1862. After which, for some time, he was assistant editor of the Ford County Journal, one of the first newspapers published in the county. David Crondall, of Champaign City, being editor. In 1864 he associated with himself as a partner in law, E. C. Gray, under the firm name of Ross & Gray, which continued until the fall of 1865, when Mr. Ross located at Fort Scott, Kansas, and where he successfully conducted an extensive law business, mostly in criminal cases, before the district and supreme courts of that state, for about two years. He was twice elected a member of the lower house of the Kansas legislature, and served with much distinction. At the close of his last term, he was elected judge of the district court, composed of Bourbon and adjoining counties, which position he held at the time of his death, which occurred in 1870, on the Pacific slope, whither he had gone for his health. In the management of his cases in court, he manifested great tenacity and no little adroitness. Before the jury he urged his clients' cause with much earnestness and vigor, in a kind of "rough and ready" style peculiar

to himself. Before the court he was deliberate, fearless and self-assured, generally argumentative, though at times quite illogical. In politics he was a zealous, radical republican, and during the late war labored for the cause of the union effectively. His educational requirements were small, yet by nature he was endowed with physical and mental capacities broad and strong.

EDWARD C. GRAY, the oldest settled lawyer, was born and raised in the vicinity of Cleveland, Ohio. His earlier years were spent on the farm and as a railroader in his native state. When the southern rebellion broke out, he shouldered his musket and moved to the front to take a hand in the preservation of the Union. After having served his country faithfully in that memorable struggle until 1864, he received an honorable discharge, and located in Paxton as a partner of Martin V. Ross, in the law practice under the firm name of Ross & Gray. The firm continued until the former went to Fort Scott, Kansas, in 1865. Mr. Gray then became the resident partner of the firm of Smith & Gray. This partnership was dissolved when Mr. Smith was elected circuit judge of the seventeenth circuit in 1873. The firm enjoyed an extensive and successful law business in Ford and adjoining counties, as well as in the higher courts of this state. Mr. Gray, soon after Judge Smith's election, associated with himself as a partner, Captain Z. S. Swan, of Champaign, Illinois, under the firm name of Gray & Swan, and so continued until the death of the latter at Champaign in 1882. He was at the December term, 1883, of the circuit court, appointed by Hon. O. T. Rems, presiding judge, as an associate counsel, with Hon. Thomas T. Tipton of Bloomington, Illinois, to defend James Ryan, who was under indictment for the murder of Abram Thorpe, in Paxton, on the 30th day of September, 1883. His judgment of the law and practice was comprehensive and accurate, and in the trial of a cause his opponent need not expect a victory, without confronting every point of merit involved in the case.

JOHN POLLOCK was born in Harrison county, Ohio, in 1817, where he was reared on the farm, and received his education in the common and select schools of his neighborhood. In 1835 he removed with his parents to Logan county, Ohio; here he worked on the farm in the summer season, and taught district school and pursued his preparatory study of the law in the winter season. Soon after his admission to the bar by the supreme court of Ohio in 1851, he began the practice of his profession at Bellfontaine. Some years later, he, in company with two others, conducted for two years a private bank in that city Mr. Pollock acting as attorney and cashier. When the firm dissolved, the business was carried on for two years longer on his own account. Having now been elected prosecuting attorney for his county, he gave up the banking business to

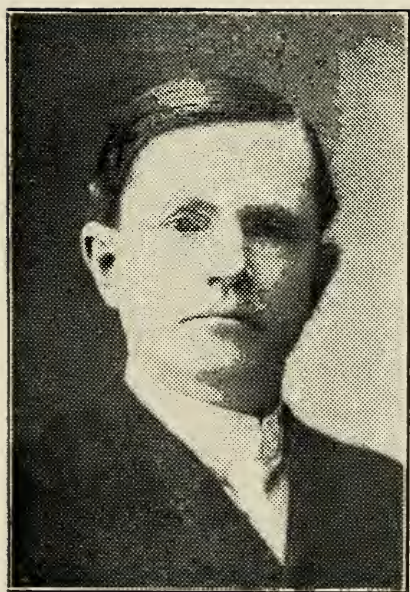
attend to the duties of his office. In 1865, in company with his son, J. E. Pollock, he opened a law office in Winchester, Virginia, where they enjoyed an extensive practice until the fall of 1866, when the father made a business trip to Illinois, intending to return to Winchester, but in the meantime the legislature of Virginia had enacted such liberal exemption and stay laws as to render collection of debts tedious and in some cases impossible. This induced him to take up his residence and open an office in Paxton. In 1872 he was elected a member of the lower house of the legislature of this state in the district composed of the counties of Livingston and Ford, and as such discharged the several duties there imposed upon him with that conscientious faithfulness that ever characterized his action, whether in public or private life. Among other valuable services rendered his constituency, especially the people of Ford county, he procured the passage of the law placing McLean and Ford counties in one judicial circuit. In 1872, he formed a law partnership with Alfred Sample (which was dissolved by mutual consent in 1877) and for one year thereafter, the firm of Pollock & McLean was one of the leading law firms in this county. But his professional career drew rapidly to a close, his overtaxed nervous system could endure the strain no longer, and its prostration ensued to such an extent that he was compelled to relinquish his law business entirely and retire to private life. In his practice, he was a careful, painstaking lawyer, always aiming to secure all legal rights of his client in every emergency, while his naturally sympathetic disposition impelled him to extra effort in behalf of the poor or unfortunate who entrusted their cases to his management.

ALFRED SAMPLE was born in Butler county, Ohio, November 27, 1846. He came to Illinois in 1857, lived and labored on the farm until he was sixteen years of age when he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois Infantry, and fought resolutely for his country until May, 1864. He received severe wounds in both arms and breast in the battle at Resaca, Georgia, and on account of which he was discharged in December, 1864. In January, 1865, he entered Eureka College, where, and at Monmouth College, he pursued a course for four years with a view of the study of law. Afterward taught school for a short time. He read law with Colonel R. G. Ingersoll at Peoria, Illinois, and was admitted to the bar in December, 1870; came immediately to Paxton and formed a partnership with M. H. Cloud, under the firm name of Cloud & Sample, which lasted until the fall of 1872, when the firm of Pollock & Sample was formed, and was dissolved in 1877. In 1872, he was elected states attorney for this county, and was reelected to the same office in 1876, by a large majority. In 1880 he was chosen elector on the republican ticket.

and cast his vote in the electoral college for James A. Garfield for president, and Chester A. Arthur for vice president. From the beginning he was a remarkably successful lawyer, and was employed in several of the most important suits ever tried in the county, among which may be mentioned his employment by the railroad and warehouse commissioners to prosecute the Wabash Company for making unjust discriminations in their rates for carriage of freight between Peoria, Illinois, and New York, and between Gilman and New York. By nature adapted to the profession of the law, possessing tact, energy, industry and invincible determination, he allowed no cessation of hostilities until he was completely victorious or utterly vanquished. He for years served on the circuit bench.

MILTON H. CLOUD was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, July 24, 1842, came to Illinois in 1850, and settled on a farm in Tazewell county, where he lived until he was twenty years old, when he enlisted in the Eighty-sixth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served his country valiantly for three years as color-bearer. At the battle of Kenesaw Mountain he received two severe wounds. After the close of his military service he entered Eureka College for a time, then read law at Pekin, Illinois, and during the winter of 1866 was a student at the Chicago Law School, after which he completed his preparatory study of the law at Metamora, Illinois, in the office of R. T. Cassell & Son. He was admitted to practice in 1867, and commenced practice at El Paso, Illinois; came to Paxton in January, 1869, and soon acquired a fair practice. In 1871, the partnership of Cloud & Sample was begun and continued until 1872. Mr. Cloud was also states attorney for the county during the partnership. For the year 1875 he was city attorney for the city of Paxton. In 1876, he became a member of the loan and real-estate firm of Hanley, Sutton, Cloud & Day. Mr. Cloud in the examination of titles, is probably as proficient as any attorney in this part of the state. In 1882, he was appointed master in chancery for the county by O. T. Reeves, circuit judge. In 1886 he was elected county judge of Ford county.

JOHN R. KINNEAR was born July 26, 1843, at West Point, Tippecanoe county, Indiana. He removed with his parents to Kingston, Ross county, Ohio, in 1844, and thence to Bloomington, Illinois, in the fall of 1849, and again to Walnut Grove, Woodford county, Illinois, in the spring of 1850; young Kinnear was reared on the farm. He attended Eureka College at Galesburg, Illinois and remained there until August, 1862, when he enlisted in Company A, Eighty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, August 22, 1862. His regiment was mustered into the service August 27, at Peoria, Illinois, and on September 7,



JUDGE J. H. MOFFETT, DECEASED, PAXTON

was ordered to Louisville, Kentucky, and immediately began active service. The regiment, belonging to the Army of the Cumberland, has an excellent record for fighting qualities, having been engaged in twenty-two pitched battles, besides numerous skirmishes. Mr. Kinnear was constantly with his regiment, except one month of sickness at Nashville, and kept a daily record of its operations. After having faithfully served his country for four years, lacking two months and twenty-two days, he was mustered out with his regiment at Washington, District of Columbia, June 6, 1865. On his return to his home he was solicited by his comrades to prepare a history of the regiment from his notes, which he did in 1866. How well he performed his work is best shown by the fact that more than two thousand volumes were published and sold at one dollar and fifty cents per volume. Soon after he reached home he began the study of the law in the office of Judge Charles H. Chitty, at Metamora, Illinois. After reading two years in the office, he attended the Chicago Law School, during the winter of 1867-68, and located in Paxton in March of the latter year. Here he formed a partnership with Hon. C. H. Frew, which was dissolved July 20, 1871; he served as city attorney for the city of Paxton during the years 1869-70-71, and as master in chancery for Ford county four years, from August 28, 1873. In January, 1881, he formed a law partnership with John H. Moffett, which lasted until his removal from Paxton. During his residence in Paxton he successfully conducted a large and lucrative practice, and was engaged in many of the most important suits tried in this county. Among them he was of counsel for General Hendrix, indicted for murder in McLean county, who was acquitted. He was married to Rebecca Means, of Bloomington, Illinois, June 2, 1868, and by whom he had two children, Ritchey and Zeta.

HON. CALVIN H. FREW is the son of Robert and Anna S. Frew, and a native of Cleveland, Ohio. He was raised on a farm, and devoted much of his time to reading, when not engaged in farm or other labor. When seventeen years old, he began teaching school, paying a share of his wages to his father, and using the remainder to pay his own expenses at the high school, and at Beaver Academy in Pennsylvania, and later, at the Vermilion Institute in Ohio. In 1862 he became the principal of the high school at Kalida, Ohio, and occupied a similar position in the high school at Young America, Illinois, in 1863-64. In this way he paid indebtedness incurred in obtaining his education, and at the same time pursued his preparatory study of law. In the spring of 1865 he settled in Paxton, and there pursued his study in the law until the following December, when he was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of Illinois. In 1868, less than three years after his admission to the bar, he was elected to

the general assembly from Ford and Iroquois counties. During his first term as a member of that body, he became distinguished on account of his, then supposed, unconstitutional and radical views touching the power of the state to regulate the charges of the railway companies for the carriage of passengers and freight. On January 19, 1869, he introduced and supported by an able argument the following resolution: "Resolved that all privileges, powers or prerogatives acquired by railroad companies of the state government are subordinate to the general welfare of the people or community where constructed, and that the right of the state to exercise a reasonable control over such companies is one of which no power can divest the people." The doctrine embodied in this resolution has since become the settled law of the land, having been declared such by the supreme court of Illinois, as well as by the supreme court of the United States. In 1870, he was reelected by a large majority from the counties of Ford and Kankakee. During this term also, he took an active part in securing amendments to and the passage of some of the most beneficial statutes of the state now in force. In 1878 he was elected a third time to the legislature, this time representing the counties of Ford and Livingston; one of the most important laws passed by the legislature at this session was that requiring the foreclosure of trust deeds and mortgages in court instead of by advertisement, the passage of which Mr. Frew urged with his usual zeal and force. In public life Mr. Frew has always been diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving his constituency with that earnestness and fearlessness characteristic of men of bold, independent mind.

F. L. Cook was a native of New York. Besides having a good common-school education, he attended Enreka College in Woodford county and Knox College at Galesburg, Illinois, for more than five years. His father having enlisted in the Union army, his son had to quit college to oversee his business affairs, that of grain buyer and railway agent at Kappa, Woodford county, Illinois. This he did from 1862 to 1866. In the fall of the latter year he went to the national capital as an employe of the state, to collect soldiers' claims, where he was engaged for three years. He then acted as private secretary for Senator Cullum, then a member of the lower house of congress from Illinois, afterward as clerk of the two house committee on territories and foreign affairs during the years 1869, 1870, 1871, as well as having charge of the payment of United States marshals in the census office. In June, 1871, he graduated from the Columbia Law School, D. C., but had been admitted to practice in Illinois, and located at Paxton as a lawyer soon thereafter. The city council appointed him its attorney to fill the unexpired term of J. C. Patton, deceased, and in 1877, he was appointed master

in chancery for this county by Judge O. T. Reeves. At the general election in 1880 he was elected states attorney for Ford county.

CHARLES H. YEOMANS, one of the first settled and most successful attorneys in Gibson City, was born in Delaware county, New York, December 2, 1846, and came to Illinois in 1850. In July, 1871, he graduated from Ripon College, Wisconsin, and received the degree of A. B., and in 1879 the degree of A. M. from the same institution. While pursuing his classical course at Ripon, he also read law under the supervision of Hon. Jesse Dobbs, at Ripon, and during vacations in the office of Hon. C. H. Wood, at Onarga, Illinois. In October, 1870, he was admitted to the Wisconsin bar, and to the Illinois bar in 1872 at Ottawa, Illinois, having located at Gibson the preceding July. By close attention to his professional business and untiring fidelity to his clients' interests, he secured a full share of law business, as well as the confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. He held the office of city attorney for his adopted city, and was a member of the board of education. He was public spirited and enterprising, taking an active part in whatever movements were inaugurated for the social or commercial advancement of the young and flourishing city of his adoption so fortunately located in the fertile valley of the Sangamon river.

J. RHEESE PATRICK, fourth son of Mr. A. C. and Mrs. C. H. Patrick was born March 4, 1858, at Rural Valley, in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania. During his boyhood days, until he was fifteen years old, he attended the common schools of his neighborhood in winter time and worked at the carpenter's trade during his vacations. Subsequently he took the full classical course of study at the Glade Run Academy, located at Dayton, Pennsylvania, and in the spring of 1879 completed the post-graduate course in that institution, which entitled him to enter the sophomore class in college. In the fall of 1879 he engaged to teach the public school at Pellsville, Vermilion county, Illinois, as principal, which position he occupied for three successive years, and in the meantime began and completed his preparatory study of the law under the supervision of Messrs. Kinnear & Moffett, attorneys in Paxton. In May, 1882, he was admitted to the bar by the appellate court at Springfield, Illinois. For six months thereafter he studied and worked in his profession in the office of Hon. Calvin H. Frew, of Paxton. He then opened an office and practiced on his own account. At the spring election of 1883, he had the honor to be elected to the office of city attorney for the city of Paxton, after a close contest, Milton H. Cloud, an older and more experienced lawyer, being his opponent.

DR. LOCKHART BROOKS FARRAR was born at Langdon, Cheshire county, New Hampshire, August 29, 1822. The death of his father occurred when the sub-

ject of this sketch was about four years old. His mother then removed with her family to Walpole, New Hampshire, where his boyhood and early manhood years were passed. After attending the common schools and different academies in his native state, he taught school for some years in various towns in New Hampshire and Vermont. He began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. George Smith, of Walpole, and completed his preliminary course in his profession with the late Dr. Hubbard Groves, of Nashua, New Hampshire. His first course of lectures was given at Woodstock, Vermont, but he received his diploma from the Berkshire Medical College, of Massachusetts, commencing in 1848. He practiced his profession for three years at Hollis, New Hampshire, then moved to Manchester, Massachusetts. The winter of 1854-55 he spent at the Jefferson Medical College, at Philadelphia, and at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York city, and in the hospitals of those cities. In the spring of 1856 he came to Illinois, and to Paxton in the fall of 1858. In 1868 he began the study of law, and in 1871 took the law diploma from the Michigan University and was admitted to the Illinois bar the same year. He opened a law office at Paxton and practiced that profession for about four years and then returned to the practice of medicine.

S. P. McLEAN was born May 9, 1852, in Hancock county, Virginia. He resided in Carrollton, Ohio, half a dozen years, and then removed to Vermont, Illinois, in 1860. He was taught the harnessmaker's trade by his father, and thereby earned the money to give him a good college education.

He read law with Gest & Pooks, of Rock Island, Illinois, was licensed to practice on examination by the supreme court of Illinois, at Ottawa, in September, 1877, and in the fall of the same year came to Paxton and formed a law partnership with Hon. John Pollock, under the firm name of Pollock & McLean. A year later, Pollock retired from the practice of the profession, and McLean continued the business. At the spring election in 1879, he was elected city attorney for the city of Paxton, which position he held, in addition to a good general practice, until May, 1880, when he resigned as city attorney, boxed his law library and entered journalism, beginning as reporter on the Bloomington (Ill.) Daily Mail. As a newspaper man he was a "Bohemian," having been engaged in reportorial and editorial work on the Sedalia (Mo.) Bazoo, the Great Southwest of St. Louis, the Decatur Herald, Bloomington Mail, Lincoln Times and other sheets, and was editor of the Kankakee Times, and where his friends jokingly said he was put under bonds to stay at least a year as a condition precedent to his employment. He was quite spicily and versatile as a writer, and held the usual adjustable political notions of newspaper reporters. On July 13, 1881, he was united in

marriage with Miss Nealy Bruyn, eldest daughter of W. H. Bruyn, of Paxton, Illinois.

S. P. RADY, attorney at law, at Gibson, Illinois, was born in Floyd county, Indiana, in 1853. Until he was fifteen years old he worked on his father's farm in the summer season and attended the district school of his neighborhood during the winter. At the age of fifteen he became an assistant teacher in the high school in Galena, under his brother, William Rady. For the next nine years he taught school a part of the time and attended school the remainder of the time. While so engaged he went to Hartsville University, Indiana, and the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio, and graduated there in the scientific course in 1877. For three years thereafter he was principal of the high school at Lona-deser, Kentucky. Some time afterward, he accepted the principalship of the Gibson city public school, which he held for one year.

JAMES HENRY LOTT was born May 7, 1855, at Charleston, in the state of South Carolina. His father was of mixed blood, being equally Indian and African, and was a free man and a carpenter by trade. His mother was a quadroon and a slave, and by descent a granddaughter of Governor Pickens, of that state. Henry went to Boston in 1865, as valet to Colonel Nutt, of the Fifty-fifth Massachusetts Colored Volunteers, and in the fall of the same year came to Tuscola, Illinois, where he attended the public schools until 1873, and in the meantime learned the barber's trade. In 1878 he went to Terre Haute, Indiana, where he read law in the office of Doris & Doris, for eighteen months, and in 1881 came to Paxton, Illinois, and resumed his law studies in October of the latter year, under the supervision of A. Sample. On the 23d day of November, 1863, he was admitted to the bar, after a rigid examination by a committee of three eminent lawyers, appointed by the appellate court of the third district, then in session at the state capital, to examine applicants for admission. His knowledge of his chosen profession in thoroughness and extent was undoubtedly equal to if not above the average of beginners. He certainly deserved much credit for the determination he has shown to succeed, for it must be remembered that during most of the time he had been engaged in preparation for the law practice, he earned a livelihood for himself and family at the barber's chair, and only acquired his knowledge of law and other subjects while others slept.

JOHN H. MORFETT, who in 1884 was one of the youngest and most successful members of our bar, was born in Clayton, Adams county, Illinois, February 25, 1857. In 1859 he emigrated with his parents to Bloomington, Indiana, and in the spring of 1865 to Paxton, Illinois. Here he graduated from the

public school, standing at the head of his classes, in 1875. Desiring more extended education, he repaired to Monmouth College in the fall of the same year and there studiously applied himself until the spring of 1877, when he began his investigations of the intricacies of the law in the office of John R. Kinnear, then one of the leading lawyers of the Ford county bar, and in January, 1880, was admitted to practice. He immediately formed a partnership with his preceptor under the firm name of Kinnear & Moffett, which lasted until May, 1883, when Mr. Kinnear took his departure for Seattle, Washington. After that, he conducted as resident partner the law business of the firm of Tipton & Moffett. During the years 1881-82, he held the office of city attorney for the city of Paxton.

THE PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE FORD COUNTY BAR are: Milton H. Cloud, and F. M. Thompson, composing the firm of Cloud & Thompson; A. McElroy; C. H. Frew; H. H. Kerr (now county judge) and Frank Lindley, composing the firm of Kerr & Lindley; M. L. McQuiston and G. Frederick, McQuiston & Frederick, C. E. Beach; R. A. McCracken; Samuel Ludlow and A. L. Phillips, Phillips & Ludlow; C. S. Schneider and R. L. Schneider, Schneider & Schneider; O. H. Wylie; Harry Duffield, (city attorney) Paxton; H. P. Beach, M. H. Scott, Piper City; L. A. Cranston, (states attorney) Gibson City.

THE FORD CIRCUIT COURT.

The legislature of the state of Illinois in the act organizing Ford county placed it in the eighth judicial circuit, and provided that the judge of said circuit should hold a term of court, on the organization of the county, at a place to be designated by the county court.

At this date, 1859, the counties of Logan, McLean, DeWitt, Champaign and Vermilion comprised the eighth district.

February 4, 1861, an act was passed, organizing the twenty-seventh judicial circuit, in which were placed the counties of Vermilion, Champaign, Douglas and Ford. Our county remained in this circuit until 1867, when on January 29, by an act of the legislature, the counties of Moultrie, Shelby, Macon, Piatt, Fayette, Champaign and Ford were united in the seventeenth circuit.

In April, 1872, the legislature again changed the circuit, placing us in the twentieth, with the counties of Kankakee, Iroquois and Livingston.

Under act of the legislature approved and in force March 28, 1873, the state was again divided into circuits, McLean and Ford constituting the four-

teenth. By act June 2, 1877, in force July 1, 1877, the state, exclusive of Cook county, was divided into thirteen circuits. The counties of McLean, Ford, Kankakee, Iroquois and Livingston forming the eleventh.

The arrangement of counties under this act, together with the additional judge elected under its provisions, made the number of judges in each of said circuits three.

The following judges have held circuit courts in Ford county: Hons. David Davis, Charles Emerson, O. L. Davis, James Steel, A. J. Gallagher, Charles H. Wood, Thomas F. Tipton, J. W. Cochran, O. T. Reeves, N. J. Pillsbury, Franklin Blades, Alfred Sample, Charles R. Starr, Colestin D. Myers, George W. Patton, John H. Moffett and Thomas M. Harris.

The first term of the Ford county circuit court was held at the City Hotel in Paxton, November 18, 1859.

The Hon. David Davis, of Bloomington, was the presiding judge; Samuel L. Day, clerk; Howard Case, sheriff; and Ward H. Lamon, states attorney. The first grand jurors were James P. Button, Matthew Elliott, Milton Strayer, Obadiah Campbell, Sidney Morgan, Solomon Burt, John B. Buell, Leander Britt, Lindsey Corbley, John Brown, Leander Butts, John P. Day, Richard Bryan, John Dopps, Sr., William Bryan, Robert Eggleston, Peter Van Antwerp, Robert N. Scovill and William Newlin.

Petit Jurors—Charles Cloyes, Benjamin Ferris, Patrick Torpey, Isaac Hall, John R. Lewis, Henry Atwood, L. W. Henckle, John Swinford, Dennis Happer, Francis Meharry, John Richardson, Charles Wall, Milton Wineland, Seth T. Simons, Archibald McKinney, Jacob Titus, William Reed, Harmon Strayer, Jacob Tanner, Jacob Henry, Frederick T. Putt, William Pollock, Paul W. Cooley and A. E. Scovill.

The court was in session four days.

John R. Lewis, Esq., member of the petit jury, in his "History of the Pan Handle," speaks of this term of court as follows:

"The charge to the grand jury was made by the judge himself, who also administered the oaths. In his charge, the judge urged them to do their whole duty as men and jurors, and as they were just starting in a new county to be careful and see that all depredations committed in their neighborhood were presented to the jury and returned to the court. The judge said, 'rid your neighborhood of all petty thieves and lawbreakers, and return them to this court.'

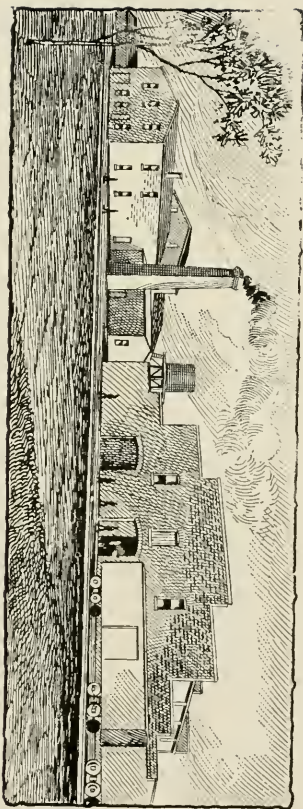
"There were not many cases on the common law docket. A few chancery cases came up and were argued before the court.

“Hon. David Brier, of Bloomington, defended the location selected by the county commissioners for the courthouse. After carefully listening to both sides, the court gave his opinion in the matter. In doing so, he complimented County Judge David Patton, saying he had been acquainted with him a number of years, and that his opinions as a lawyer were considered carefully made and well taken, but in this case the court must differ with him.

“One criminal case was tried at this term of court. It was on a charge of venue from Vermilion county, where a man had stolen a kit of fish weighing fifty pounds from the railway depot at Danville. In this trial, three of the jury were from the Pan Handle. The prisoner was very ably defended by an attorney from Danville. The defense set up was that the value of the fish stolen was less than five dollars, and introduced witnesses to prove that this was the fact. One of these, Mr. Barnhouse, of Prairie City, swore that a kit of fish, such as the one stolen, was sold in his town for from four and a half dollars to four dollars and seventy-five cents. In the cross-examination, States Attorney W. H. Lamon brought out that the witness knew nothing of the value of fish in Danville, and as Danville was the place from which the fish was stolen, the Danville price must be that at which it was valued. In his charge to the jury, Judge Davis said if they found that the prisoner was guilty, and that the fish stolen was valued at five dollars or over, the penalty was not less than one nor more than five years in the penitentiary. After a short consultation, the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and set the penalty at one year in the penitentiary.

“The whole business of the court was carried on more like a general school of instruction to a class of students than anything else that the writer can compare it to. A local attorney, Mr. Morse, who had a client, and wished to get a continuance of his case, had prepared an affidavit setting forth the reasons for not being ready for trial. In the affidavit there was some very strong language used in behalf of his client, to which Judge Davis listened as long as he could, but, after a little, exclaimed, ‘Tut, tut, tut, young man, you should never get your client to swear to any such thing as that. Never allow your clients to perjure themselves. It is the duty of an attorney to keep his client out of trouble, and not get him into it.’ ”

Prior to the formation of the fourteenth judicial circuit, in 1874, the district had been so large that the judges could not give the necessary time to our county to dispose of the business. Since that date, the business has been kept well in hand, it being the frequent custom when cases could not otherwise be disposed of, to hold night sessions.



PANTOX CANNING CO.

Judge Tipton, of Bloomington, at one time to clear the docket of long pending cases, made a custom of holding court until near midnight, and sometimes even later, or rather earlier.

Our judges have all been men of integrity and filled their positions with credit to themselves and satisfaction to the people.

As an illustration of the confidence of the bar and litigants in the court, there was one term when a full week passed in the trial of causes, and in only one case was a jury called; in all the others by agreement, jury was waived, and trial had before the court.

One of the most aggravated murders committed thus far in the history of our county was that of Robert A. Miller. He was a farmer, well advanced in life, of quiet, kindly disposition, loved by his neighbors, respected by all and without a single enemy as far as he knew. For many years he had lived on his farm in the north part of Wall township, some seven miles northwest of Paxton.

On the early morning of October 7, 1875, he took his cows to water to a well, some little distance from the house by the edge of a cornfield. A nephew of Miller, Willis Conn, a single man some twenty years of age, who lived near Rantoul, had the afternoon of the day before come to Paxton and bought a revolver. After testing it, he procured sufficient lunch for his supper and breakfast, and then went to a vacant house in the neighborhood of Robert A. Miller, where he spent the night. Very early in the morning, he had come down to his uncle's, and had concealed himself in the corn just near this well, close to where he knew his victim would pass in watering his stock. When his uncle had come near enough to gratify his murderous desire, he fired the shot with deadly certainty, the ball entering the right side and penetrating near the heart.

His uncle fell mortally wounded; but not satisfied with this Conn rushed up to the fallen body, and, putting the weapon close to the head of his victim, fired the second shot, and immediately disappeared. As soon as the neighbors received the alarm, and gathered in sufficient numbers, search was at once begun for the murderer, and a messenger sent to the sheriff at Paxton. On receiving word of the tragedy, warrant was issued, and Sheriff Lyman started for the scene.

About a mile out of town, he met a man afoot, who told him he was the party he was looking for, and that he had shot Uncle Bobby Miller, and gave himself up. Conn was at once taken into custody, put in jail, and held to await his trial.

Circuit court sat in December, when he was indicted, and his trial began December 9, 1875, and lasted four days. A. Sample, states attorney, was assisted by M. H. Cloud in the prosecution, and the prisoner was represented by M. B. Thomson, of Urbana, Illinois. No trouble was experienced in impaneling a jury. The ground of defense was insanity, which was most persistently presented by defendant's counsel. The fact and circumstances of the killing were not disputed. A number of physicians of reputation testified as to the mental condition of the prisoner. Some to the effect that he was wholly irresponsible for his acts, and others that, while at times this might be true, yet that he had the power to distinguish between right and wrong, and if so, was responsible.

The law in regard to insanity as a defense for crime was laid down by the court to the jury in two instructions, which were as follows:

"The court instructs the jury for the people that the complete possession of reason is not essential to constitute the legal responsibility of the offender, and although the jury may believe from the evidence that at the time of the act the person was not of sound mind; yet, if the jury believe from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the prisoner had the power to distinguish right from wrong, and to adhere to the right and avoid the wrong as applied to the particular act charged, then he is responsible to the law for his act.

"The jury are instructed for the defendant, that if they believe from the evidence in the case that at the time of the killing that said defendant was insane, and that though they may believe he had some idea of right and wrong; yet if the jury believe from all the evidence that the defendant was driven to said act by an irresponsible insane impulse which he was on account of such insanity unable to control, then, and in that case, there would be no such intent to commit crime charged, and in that case the jury should find the defendant not guilty."

The prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to the penitentiary for twenty years. His conduct and appearance during the trial tended strongly to prove that he was not in his right mind. He sat heedless during the investigation, showing neither concern nor fear, and save when the verdict was read in open court, did he seem to realize the terrible punishment before him. He was promptly sentenced and taken to Joliet, but only lived to serve about two years of his time.

On December 19, 1878, Joseph Borowick, living in the southern part of Sullivant township, the head of a family of Polanders, was shot and mortally wounded. Investigation developed the fact that they had procured a large

quantity of liquor and taken it home, when himself and family had indulged very freely in its use.

The old gentleman, while in this condition, as was his wont, undertook the task of whipping his wife. In the progress of the trouble, his stepson, Maik Borowick, became involved, and, as was supposed, in defense of his mother, fired the shot which caused the killing.

Maik was at once arrested, sent to jail, indicted at the April and tried at the August term of circuit court, 1879, his Honor, Judge Reeves presiding. A. Sample, state's attorney, prosecuted, and Judge Tipton, of Bloomington, defended the prisoner.

The trial was beset with many difficulties. The chief witnesses were Poles and Bohemians, and being unable to speak our language, had to be questioned through an interpreter. The best interpreter that could be obtained was, in many instances, unable to make the witness fully understand the questions of the lawyers, or obtain an intelligent answer. The evidence was entirely circumstantial, and that not the strongest class. The weather was extremely hot, the defendant and his mother appeared largely indifferent to the progress of the trial, and the public took but little interest in the case.

The trial lasted three days, and a verdict of guilty of manslaughter was rendered, and Maik Borowick was sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of five years—five days to be spent in solitary confinement and the residue at hard labor. While the prisoner manifested no great anxiety in his trial, when it was over and he understood that his punishment was imprisonment and not hanging, he seemed very highly pleased.

A trial that attracted a great deal of public interest was that of *The People vs Abram G. Hendryx*.

On April 26, 1880, in Padua township, McLean county, Illinois, Henry Stovenour and Frank Bailey were killed, and Hendryx was on May 5 indicted by the grand jury of McLean county for committing the offense. On the petition of the defendant, change of venue was granted to Ford county, where trial was had at the December term of circuit court, 1880, his Honor, Judge Reeves, presiding.

The case was very hotly contested, the people being represented by States Attorney Porter, of McLean, and Cook, of Ford county, and General Schenck, of Indiana. Messrs. Tipton & Ryan, of Bloomington, and John R. Kinnear, of Paxton, appearing for the defendant.

The trial lasted eleven days, while over two hundred witnesses were in attendance from McLean county. Great interest was manifested by the pub-

lie, and crowds filled the courtroom during the progress of the trial. The plea relied on by prisoner's counsel to secure acquittal was that of self-defense, which was urged with great ingenuity and persistency in the selection of the jury and during the progress of the trial. An entire day was occupied by counsel in presenting the case to the jury. The trial was concluded late in the afternoon, and the jury then retired. After being out about three hours, a verdict of "not guilty" was returned, and the prisoner was discharged. The costs in this case to McLean county were several thousand dollars, and to Ford county not a few hundred.

The following gentlemen sat on the jury in this case: Ira W. Hand, James Boyd, Charles A. Cook, Joseph Bushnell, William H. Crowe, Fred Potts, Frank P. Newhart, James F. Ellis, Jacob Snider, John Clayton, Isaac Palmer and E. Atwood.

A homicide which our circuit court was called upon to investigate was that of Abram Thorp. He was a young man and unmarried. He had lived in the vicinity of Paxton, near Trickel's Grove. On Sabbath morning, September 30, 1883, his dead body was found lying on the sawdust in Larkin's ice-house, located in the alley in the rear of the St. Elmo Restaurant. He had apparently been killed by a severe blow on his head.

James Ryan was at once suspected and arrested. At the coroner's inquest it was shown that Ryan and Thorp had a difficulty the night previous, during which Thorp had severely bitten Ryan's lip; that both men were more or less intoxicated, and that early Sabbath morning Ryan had said in substance that "he had got even with Abe."

On this and other evidence he was held for the grand jury, and was indicted in December, but obtained a continuance until the April term, 1884, when his trial was had. The case was called and jury selected on Tuesday the 8th, and verdict was rendered on the following Saturday. Some thirty witnesses were sworn on behalf the people and about the same number for the defense. A. Sample was associated with F. L. Cook, states attorney, in the prosecution, which was most vigorous.

The prisoner being unable to employ counsel, his honor, Judge Reeves, at the term at which indictment was found, assigned as his attorneys E. C. Gray and Judge Tipton, who were assisted on the trial by J. H. Moffett. The plea of Ryan was "not guilty." The evidence, though wholly circumstantial, satisfied the jury beyond doubt of the defendant's guilt. The jury retired on Friday afternoon, and Saturday morning returned their verdict, which was:

“We, the jury find the defendant guilty, and fix the term of his imprisonment in the penitentiary at thirty-three years.”

Great local interest was shown in the trial, and when the arguments of counsel were made the courtroom was filled to its utmost capacity.

COUNTY OFFICIALS.

COUNTY JUDGE.

David Patton, from June 1859 to December, 1873; Hugh P. Beach, 1873-86; Milton H. Cloud, 1886-90; Alex McElroy, 1890-1904; H. H. Kerr, 1904-1908.

COUNTY CLERK.

Nathan Simons, 1859, until his death, August 29, 1865; John I. Simons, August 31, 1865, to December, 1865; James S. Frederick, 1865-73; Merton Dunlap, 1873-1892; William B. Flora, 1892-1908.

COUNTY TREASURER.

Daniel C. Stoner, June, 1859, to November, 1859; John P. Day, November, 1859-65; James P. Button, 1865, to March 22, 1866; John P. Day, March, 1866-69; Leonard Pierpont, 1869-73; James D. Kilgore, 1873, to September, 1874; John B. Shaw, September, 1874-86; Nils Dahlgren, 1886-1890; Oscar V. Hohngram, 1890-1892; N. W. Peterson, 1892-1896; T. J. Sower, 1896-1900; Tim Ross, 1900-1904; Thomas Crowe, 1904-1908.

CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT.

Samuel L. Day, 1859-64; James F. Hall, 1864-68; Levi A. Dodd, 1868-72; Weaver White, 1872-76; Augustus M. Daggett, 1876-80; Weaver White, 1880-84; John F. G. Helmer, 1884-1888; Oscar H. Wylie, 1892-1896; Thomas D. Thompson, 1896-1908.

STATES ATTORNEY.

Previous to 1872 the district of the states attorney was coextensive with that of the circuit judge but by an act passed in 1872 each county elected a states

attorney. The names of the gentlemen who served as states attorney at the various sessions of our circuit courts up to 1872, are: Ward H. Lamont, Vermilion county; J. G. Cannon, of Douglas county; and M. B. Thompson, of Champaign county.

Under the election by counties, the list for Ford is as follows:

Alfred Sample, 1872-80; France L. Cook, 1880-88; A. L. Phillips, 1892-1902; L. A. Cranston, 1902-1908.

SHERIFF.

Howard Case, 1859-60; James D. Hall, 1860-62; Edward L. Gill, 1862-64; William Snyder, 1864-66; Mark Parsons, April 9, 1866, to November 14, 1866; Thomas E. Barnhouse, 1866-68; S. L. Edgar, 1868-70; Edward L. Gill, 1870-74; Samuel B. Lyman, 1874-82; James W. Ramsay, 1882-86; Benjamin F. Mason, 1886-90; James R. Rezner, 1890-94; B. F. Mason, 1894-98; Tim Ross, 1898-1902; Thomas Crowe, 1902-06; John H. Nelson, 1906-08.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

William W. Blanchard, 1859-63; Robert McCracken, 1863-65; J. B. Randolph, 1865-67; W. C. LeFevre, 1867-69; James Brown, 1869-71; William L. Conrow, 1871-73; Robert N. Gorsuch, 1873-77; Daniel H. Armstrong, 1877, to February, 1879; Samuel A. Armstrong, March, 1879, to September, 1882; John M. Hanley, September, 1882, to December, 1882; Franz G. Lohman, 1882-90; Edward A. Gardener, 1890-1906; H. M. Rudolph, 1906-08.

SURVEYOR.

James W. Campbell, 1859-61; Jonathan Covalt, 1861-63; John F. Stoner, 1863-69; Henry J. Howe, 1869-75; Henry McCulloch, 1875-79; Charles B. Ellis, 1879-83; John R. Lewis, 1884, 1888, 1900; C. R. Helmer, 1900-1908.

CORONER.

Wheeler Bentley, 1859-62; John H. Evans, 1862-66; Wheeler Bentley, 1866-67; D. R. Francis, 1867-68; F. F. Fuller, 1868-70; George B. Walker, 1870-72; John S. Bodwell, 1872-74; John F. G. Helmer, 1874-78; John C. Culver, 1878-80; Charles Bradley, 1880-82; Hiram W. Barney, 1882-86; E. B. Perry, 1886-1888; W. A. Bicket, 1888-1892; W. A. Hutchison, 1900-1908.

JUDGES OF CIRCUIT COURT FOR ELEVENTH CIRCUIT, FROM 1877 TO 1908.

Owen T. Reeves, Bloomington; Nathaniel J. Pillsbury, Pontiac; Franklin Blades, Watseka; Alfred Sample, Paxton; Thomas F. Tipton, Bloomington; Charles R. Starr, Kankakee; Coleston D. Myers, Bloomington; George W. Patton, Pontiac; John H. Moffett, Paxton; Thomas M. Harris, Lincoln.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

By the act of January 31, 1861, the representation was fixed at twenty-five senators and eighty-five representatives. Ford county was placed in the ninth senatorial district and the forty-second representative district. This being the first appointment since the organization of Ford, the county was represented for the two preceding years in the senate by Thomas A. Marshall, of Coles, and in the house of representatives for the same time by Samuel G. Craig, of Vermilion. The ninth senatorial district included the counties of Coles, Douglas, Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, Vermilion. Colonel Charles Bogardus represented Ford county in the senate, from 1888 to 1899.

Ford county was represented in the lower house by Charles Bogardus, from 1884 to 1888; John A. Montelius, 1901 to 1903; A. L. Phillips, 1905 to 1907.

THE FIRST COURTHOUSE.

When the new county of Ford was organized, a great and pressing want was a suitable place for holding court, rooms for county officers and a jail. There had been considerable discussion as to the proper site for the county buildings, and some propositions were presented to the county court in regard thereto. However, on the 16th day of January, 1860, the question was definitely settled by an order entered in the county court providing for the location of the courthouse and jail on the site where the present one now stands.

In June of the same year, an agreement was entered into for the erection of the courthouse; the county judge and associate justices representing the county, and James F. Hall being the contractor.

The original cost as provided in the contract was fixed at eleven thousand dollars but the plans being afterward somewhat changed and enlarged permission was granted by a vote of the people, April, 1861, to add four thousand dollars to the first amount. In December, 1861, an additional contract was made

with Mr. Hall, and the total price increased to sixteen thousand dollars, the additional cost being for excavation of the basement, grading the yard and construction of outbuildings.

On February 13, 1862, the building was accepted by the board of supervisors, and a county order issued to Mr. Hall for two thousand eight hundred and ninety dollars. The records are not very clear as to this sum, the writer being under the impression that this was the balance still unpaid on the sixteen thousand dollars, until assured by parties conversant with the facts that this last payment was for additional improvements not named in the contracts. This would bring the total cost of the courthouse, as it then stood, up to eighteen thousand eight hundred and ninety dollars. The explanation for these additions to the original contract price is made "that the original plan was found unsatisfactory, and that it was thought best to make the change at that time rather than after the work was completed under the first contract." Nothing appears to the contrary but that the supervisors and others representing the county acted wisely in this regard. Bonds were issued for sixteen thousand dollars, bearing interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum.

The courthouse as first built, contained on the first or ground floor offices for the county clerk, circuit clerk, and sheriff, rooms for the jailer and family and cells for the prisoners. The second floor contained court and jury rooms.

After completion of the jail, the cells in the courthouse were removed, and in their stead the circuit clerk's office was fitted up. The county clerk occupied the room formerly used by the jailer. In March, 1875, a contract was entered into with William Daniels for building fire-proof vaults at the west end of the courthouse, and other improvements, including the fitting up of the clerk's offices as already mentioned. The total cost of the same was two thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine dollars and eighty cents. The courthouse was of ample size to meet the wants of our county for many years.

SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE AND JAIL.

At a session of the board of supervisors, May, 1871, a committee, consisting of Supervisors C. E. Henderson, William Noel and James H. Flagg, was appointed, with instructions "to examine into the matter of building a new jail or to repair the old one so as to be capable of holding prisoners, and for that purpose they are hereby authorized to go abroad and examine such jails as in their judgment will be suitable."



FORD COUNTY INFIRMARY, PAXTON

At the meeting of the board in June, the committee reported, as the result of their labors, a plan for a county jail. The board accepted the report and decided in favor of erecting a sheriff's residence and a jail. The plan presented by the committee was followed.

The board again met in July of the same year, and appropriated twenty thousand dollars for the erection of the buildings named and directed the county clerk to issue county orders from time to time as directed by the building committee, but not to exceed the sum of fifteen thousand dollars. The orders were to bear interest at ten per cent per annum.

Six-tenths of the county tax collected each year was set apart to meet the payment of these county orders. Messrs. Henderson, Noel and Flagg were placed in charge of the work on behalf of the county.

In September, 1871, the board made an additional appropriation of twelve thousand dollars, "for the completion of the sheriff's residence and jail, said orders to bear interest at ten per cent per annum, six thousand dollars to be paid in five years, and six thousand dollars in ten years." The total cost of these buildings, not including discounts on county orders, was something more than twenty-eight thousand dollars. This is ascertained by the orders issued and estimating discounts on the same, there being no funds in the county treasury at the time.

THE NEW COURTHOUSE.

The old courthouse was a scene of many interesting things in the history of the county. Many men, who afterward became distinguished citizens of the nation, took part in the varied litigation conducted in its courtrooms. Among these may be mentioned, Ex-Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court David Davis, now dead; Hon. J. G. Cannon, speaker of the national house of representatives; and in the early days states attorney of the district then including Ford county.

In December, 1905, a decision was reached by the board of supervisors to remodel the old courthouse. At the following January meeting the sum to be expended for the work was fixed at fifty-five thousand dollars. The plans for the practically new structure were awarded to Joseph W. Royer, of Urbana, Illinois, and he was employed as architect. John Iehl, H. A. McClure and J. P. Glass were named as the first building committee.

The new building is located on the site of the old courthouse at Paxton, and is a two-story and basement building, ninety-four by eighty feet in

extreme dimensions. It is constructed in a most substantial manner, according to the latest and most approved methods used in modern fire-proof buildings, the materials used being concrete, stone, terra cotta and steel. The building is designed in the renaissance style of architecture, all molding, pilasters, cornices, etc., having classic outlines. The beautiful structure is surmounted by a low copper-covered dome. The base, entrance-ways, quoins on corners and architraves around windows are of buff Bedford stone. The cornice and cartouches are of terra cotta, while the balustrade around the roof is of brick and stone. All exterior portions of the building, where stone and terra cotta are not used, are laid up in very dark, vitrified brick, thus giving a great contrast. The roof is made of tile laid in concrete, which, in turn, is supported by steel trusses and beams. The height of the main corridor from the ground is forty feet, and the height of dome, at base of flag-staff, is seventy-two feet.

The interior of the building is finished throughout in best manner, all floors and walls being fire-proof. All corridors and public spaces in offices have tile floors and marble wainscoting. The stairs are of iron and steel, with marble treads and landings. The woodwork throughout is of white oak, with furniture and fixtures to match. The interior is decorated in oil colors, very artistically executed, and presents a very pleasing effect to the eye, as well as being extremely durable.

The basement is occupied by storage vaults, boiler room, fuel room, work room, Grand Army room and coroner's room, and is aided by a stair leading from main corridor on first floor.

The first floor is occupied by the principal officers of the county. As you enter the building at the center of the front, you find at the right, the county clerk's, county treasurer's and the county judge's rooms. On the left, are the offices of the circuit clerk, the sheriff and the board of supervisors. All principal offices are provided with ample vault room and private offices.

The stairs leading from the first to the second floor, are directly in line with the main entrance, and form one of the main features of the building.

On the second floor are the offices of the county superintendent of schools and the states attorney; also the circuit courtroom, jury room, lawyers room, law library, judge's private office and toilet rooms for men and women, as well as the ladies waiting room.

While the Ford county courthouse is not as large as those of some other counties, a careful inspection of the building will convince one that, owing to the convenient arrangement and equipment, the accommodations of the build-

ing are equal to those of many larger and more costly structures. The building is fully equipped with electric lights and fixtures, and is also piped throughout for gas.

The new courthouse building, in which the people take the greatest pride, was dedicated with appropriate exercises, June 11, 1908. The building was occupied early in the fall of 1907.

The following were the dedicatory services:

NEW FORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PAXTON, ILLINOIS.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, A. D. 1908

MASTER OF CEREMONIES—JUDGE M. H. CLOUD.

MASTER OF PARADES AND PROCESSIONS—MAYOR C. E. BEACH.

CHIEF MARSHAL—E. A. GARDNER.

AIDES—AUGUST KOEHLNE, A. DILLON, JOHN WALDRON AND D. M. BRENEISA.

TEN O'CLOCK A. M.

Music	Paxton Band
Invocation	Rev. G. E. Hemdahl
Music	Double Male Quartet
Address of Welcome on Behalf of Ford County	J. P. Glass
Address of Welcome on Behalf of City of Paxton	Mayor C. E. Beach
Response to Addresses of Welcome	J. P. Smith
Music	Double Male Quartet
Address	H. A. McClure
Address	Judge C. D. Myers

DINNER.

ONE THIRTY O'CLOCK P. M.

Civic Parade, Led by Fourth Regiment Uniform Rank Knights of Pythias, under Command of Colonel John Bertoni.

Music

Vocal Selection

Chorus of School Children

Presentation of Keys of New Courthouse by John Iehl, introduced by J. W. Gilkerson, Chairman of Building Committee.

Response and Acceptance of Keys by George Stockdale, Chairman of Board of Supervisors.

Music	Double Male Quartet
Address	Hon. I. N. Phillips
Music	Paxton Band
Address	Judge T. M. Harris
Address	Judge G. W. Patton

THE FORD COUNTY ALMSHOUSE AND POOR FARM.

The county almshouse was erected in 1897. It is built of brick, with stone trimmings, three stories with basement and attic. It has accommodations for about fifty inmates and is equipped with ample facilities for their care. There are also good, substantial outbuildings, such as barn, toolhouse, slaughterhouse, sheds, etc.

The farm is composed of one hundred and sixteen and fifty-seven hundredths acres and is kept in a high state of cultivation and well stocked with the necessary farm animals, machinery, etc. The pauper relief expenses of the county have been much reduced since this farm was purchased and put in operation.

LAFAYETTE, BLOOMINGTON & MISSISSIPPI RAILROAD BONDS.

On November 6, 1867, an election was held to determine "whether said county of Ford shall subscribe to the capital stock of the Lafayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railway to the amount of four thousand dollars per mile, for the distance which said road shall traverse said Ford county to aid in the construction of said railway."

This subscription amounted to one hundred and twelve thousand dollars, the distance being twenty-eight miles. A majority of votes were cast for the project.

On January 17, 1868, an election was held "to determine whether said county shall subscribe to the capital stock of the Lafayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railway to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, in addition to what has already been subscribed."

This proposition was also adopted. In December, 1871, a committee representing the board of supervisors reported that the railroad company had complied with all requirements of the board. The question arising upon issuing the bonds as voted to the amount of one hundred and forty-two thousand dol-

lars, David Keighin, then a supervisor from Mona, introduced a resolution fixing the rate of interest at six per cent, which was defeated by a vote of six to five.

On January 2, 1872, the board ordered the bonds issued for the full amount, payable in ten years, with interest at ten per cent per annum. The certificate of stock was thereupon issued at the county by the railroad authorities.

Similar certificates were issued to other counties and several townships which had voted aid to this railroad. It was afterward claimed by these counties and townships that this was the only bona fide stock in this railroad, notwithstanding that certificates of stock had been issued to individuals by the directors of said road in sufficient amounts to control the elections in selecting directors; and thus control the railroad.

In the latter part of 1873, the board directed Alfred Sample, states attorney, to investigate the management and records of said railroad. Mr. Sample did so and made an exhaustive and satisfactory report to the board of the results of his labors, he having carefully examined the company's books at Toledo, Ohio. At the next annual meeting for the election of directors of the Lafayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railway, held at Bloomington, Illinois, January 20, 1874, representatives of the several townships and counties appeared and presented their claims to be heard, etc. A warm, interesting and somewhat noisy meeting was held, which resulted in those representing the railroad company withdrawing and holding their meeting elsewhere.

The representatives of the people remained at the appointed place and proceeded to elect a board of twelve directors, those from Ford county being O. D. Sackett, Alfred Sample, John H. Collier and Merton Dunlap, who had been authorized by the board of supervisors to represent the interests of this county at said meeting.

The following officers were then elected: F. Henderson, president; O. D. Sackett, vice president; N. S. Sunderland, treasurer; A. Sample, attorney; Merton Dunlap, secretary.

The contest for the control of the railroad continued for about two years in the courts, when the whole matter was suddenly brought to an end by the sale of the railroad under the mortgage which was given by the directors of the road at an early period of its existence.

While this relieved Ford county from any further responsibility in the management of the railroad, the indebtedness of one hundred and forty-two thousand dollars still remained.

On January 22, 1880, a contract was entered into between the board of supervisors and a firm in New York city by which these bonds were funded into six per cent bonds, due in twenty years, with the privilege to the county of paying the same any time after five years.

It seems proper in this connection to make a brief mention of the contest between the people and the railroad companies, beginning in 1873. It was claimed that the latter were charging illegal and unjust rates for passenger fare and freights. This question assumed such a magnitude in Ford county that in the election for county officers in that year the voters united without regard to party, and the "Farmers' ticket" was elected by a large majority.

The state legislature passed a stringent law against unjust discriminations, and prescribed that three cents per mile for roads of the class of the Illinois Central should be the maximum charge for passenger travel. Rates for transportation of freights were also fixed. A board of railroad commissioners was appointed whose duty it was to see this law enforced.

The contest continued in the court for several years with but little success for the people. In December, 1879, a public meeting was held at the courthouse in Paxton, at which a resolution was adopted requesting A. Sample, states attorney, to prosecute all infractions of the railroad law in Ford county. Soon after this, commissioners met the business men and farmers of this locality in this city. Mr. Sample presented an extended list of extortionate rates imposed by the railroads in violation of law. Of the commissioners, Hon. William Smith, chairman, and Mr. Oberly earnestly favored the enforcement of the law.

This meeting, through which was manifested the determination of the people to push matters, provoked considerable interest among the railway officials. Some of them came to this place to investigate as to how far the people were disposed to go and if matters could not be compromised.

Briefly stated, after considerable agitation and correspondence between the railway managers, Chairman Smith and Mr. Sample, the leading roads concluded to comply with the law as to passenger and freight rates. Subsequently another serious question arose regarding freights from within and without the state, the companies claiming this to be a matter to be regulated by congress. East and west lines charged, for example, more on freight from Gilman to New York city than from Peoria, a distance of eighty-five miles.

The matter was finally determined in favor of the state law by a suit brought in the Ford county circuit court by Mr. Sample in 1882. The case was strongly contested by the railroads, but the supreme court decided

adversely to them, setting forth the reasons in one of the most elaborate opinions filed for years.

WAR OF THE REBELLION.

Ford county, at the breaking out of the war of 1861, being so recently formed and having a population of less than two thousand, did not organize any company of soldiers. However, many of our patriotic citizens enlisted in commands organized in adjoining counties and elsewhere in the state. It would give us pleasure to publish their names in this work, but the difficulty of obtaining a complete list is insurmountable, and a partial list would be very unsatisfactory.

BOUNTIES.

At a meeting of the supervisors, August, 1862, a resolution was introduced by Supervisor Button and duly adopted, providing for a county tax of five mills on the dollar for the purpose of paying each volunteer sixty dollars and to create a fund for the support of soldiers' families during their absence.

The following committees were appointed to disburse the funds for soldiers' families: Patton Township—William Walker, J. H. Flagg, J. F. Hall; Drummer's Grove—J. H. Kendall, J. E. Davis, Leonard Pierpont; Stockton—S. K. Marston, T. W. Pope, G. B. Winter. In December, 1863, the bounty was increased to three hundred dollars to each volunteer.

In April, 1864, a draft having been ordered to fill the quota of this county for seventy-eight men, an order was adopted by the supervisors offering a bounty of one thousand dollars to each man drafted, who should be accepted by the government.

However, it transpired that bounties by counties exceeding the sum of three hundred dollars were illegal, and efforts were made to legalize this one thousand dollars bounty by a special act of the general assembly. It did not succeed, and consequently but three hundred dollars could be paid to each man. February, 1865, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars was appropriated by the supervisors to procure volunteers to fill the county quota, the amount for each volunteer not to exceed three hundred dollars.

The adjutant general's report, Vol. 1, page 194, makes the following showing for this county:

HISTORY OF FORD COUNTY

Prior to December 31, 1865.

Total quota 300

Total credits 222

Deficit of men 78

December 31, 1865.

Total quota 272

Total credit 271

Deficit 1

On page 276 of said report is the following, showing “expenditures and liabilities incurred by Ford county in aid of the suppression of the late rebellion, as reported to the adjutant general’s office:

Bounties\$72,426 15

Transportation 10,000 00

Soldiers’ families 3,861 94

Total \$86,288 09

G. A. R. POSTS.

There are in this county three posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, as follows:

LOTT POST, NO. 70, G. A. R.

This post was organized and mustered at Gibson November 3, 1879.

The following is the membership to February 28, 1884; Captains, J. H. Collier, Austin Crabbs, Willard Proctor. First Lieutenants, J. N. McVicker, Samuel Johnston, J. J. McCormack, Russell Puntney. Second Lieutenant, S. A. Armstrong. Sergeants, R. M. Smith, J. T. McClure, H. J. Ring, A. J. Ham, J. E. Collier, F. P. Wood, Fred Potts, George W. Preston, James Grant, Frank Du Close, J. S. Frederick. Corporals, S. J. LeFevre, W. H. Vreeland, W. B. Aaron, J. L. Mitchell, Mark Anthony, W. E. McMullen, S. S. Barnes, L. L. Garrett, F. M. Anderson, T. M. Bunch. Musicians, R. A. McClure, John Grove. Privates, H. M. Blacker, J. D. Bell, G. W. Haupt, S. A. Plank, Daniel

Crummy, Charles Phillips, J. N. Vaughn, James Allen, J. D. Corbin, P. W. Dale, C. C. Houdyshell, O. O. Perrin, S. Emmons, H. E. Shearer, J. R. Lott, Ralph Mulvane, C. Ashby, W. T. Estes, William Day, J. M. Phillips, W. P. Jones, E. Barnabee, J. M. Burner, W. H. Simms, M. K. McDowell, J. M. Mitchell, F. C. McDowell, O. H. Damon, T. B. Strauss, J. W. Rinehart, P. H. Faught, A. Stratton, W. Bowen, J. G. Barker, M. W. Scott, W. Gilchrist, D. Baylor, L. L. Flora, J. S. Sawyer, Charles B. Payner (saddler), Elmer Ashby, J. W. Moore, D. S. Hall, V. G. Way, W. Ramey, J. H. Stathem, J. H. Arrow-smith, Nelson Smith, H. A. Grove, J. R. Gilchrist, John Joos, A. J. Cooper, S. Ross.

PIPER CITY POST, NO. 361, G. A. R.

List of members to February 28, 1884; officers 1884; F. O. Walrich, Commander; H. P. Beach, S. V. C.; T. J. Sowers, J. V. C.; S. D. Culbertson, Surgeon; G. M. Williams, Adjutant; Ira W. Iland, Chaplain; W. Dick, O. D.; J. R. Rezner, O. G.; J. A. Montelius, Q. M.; D. W. Turney, S. M.; C. R. Jackson, Q. M. S. Members, Robert Hevener, James Healey, J. G. T. Luther, B. G. Church, J. S. Campbell, T. W. Eaton, Robert R. Farris, J. C. Moore, C. C. Crandell, Charles Litsy, D. Ritchie, W. P. Moore, D. H. Rodgers, B. H. Morrow, W. B. Miller, W. W. Coburn, W. T. Riggs, James Feeley, A. J. Long, J. McBride, J. Wagner, E. B. Beighle, C. Fable.

PAXTON POST, NO. 387, G. A. R.

Organized January 12, 1884. Membership to March 6, 1884: Officers, Colonel Charles Bogardus, Commander; M. H. Cloud, S. V. C.; W. C. Hutchison, J. V. C.; T. M. King, Q. M.; C. M. Taylor, Chaplain; B. F. Mason, O. D.; John Swanson, O. G.; J. W. Ramsay, Adjutant; W. M. Wilson, S. M.; William Cramer, Q. M. S. Membership, G. L. Atkinson, A. H. Bridgeman, Charles Bogardus, J. M. Briney, G. W. Berdine, M. H. Cloud, William Cramer, M. Cramer, M. V. Davis, Stacey Daniels, W. C. Hutchison, Frederick Johnson, Theodore M. King, B. F. Mason, F. McFarland, Taylor Pyle, John A. Peterson, T. S. Peacock, J. W. Ramsay, John Swanson, Alfred Sample, C. M. Taylor, J. D. Wilson, Thomas Wier, W. M. Wilson, W. T. Westbrook, Henry Weaver.

PIPER CITY GUARDS.

Company C, Ninth Battalion Illinois National Guards, was organized March 27, 1876. The list of original members has been furnished, and is as follows, viz:

Captain, H. C. Baughman; First Lieutenant, F. O. Walrich; Second Lieutenant, D. F. Walden; Orderly Sergeant, J. P. Madden; Sergeants, John Neimier, J. D. Parsons, E. F. Pulver, J. T. Wilson; J. R. Rezner, Color Sergeant Ninth Battalion; Corporals, J. W. Ramsay, J. R. Bagly, S. Kiblinger, Frank Kiblinger; Musician, H. S. Randall; privates, Henry Allnut, Watson Bishop, John Hobbs, E. A. Kice, G. M. Bagley, N. G. Plank, J. S. Telfer, J. B. Telfer, W. M. Thompson, Joseph C. Kirk, M. Johnson, William Hartley, James Liston, Alex Liston, J. Netterville, John C. Zea.

The company was reorganized September 4, 1877, in accordance with the new military code, and under the consolidation of the different regiments and battalions May 4, 1882, was assigned to the Fourth Regiment, and was known as Company H.

The present commissioned officers are Frank O. Walrich, captain; John Rorbach, first lieutenant; J. R. Rezner, second lieutenant.

REMINISCENCES BY R. R. MURDOCK.

My first visit to the western—now the middle western states was in the autumn of 1852. I came by canal packet boat to Buffalo, by rail to Cleveland, by steamer to Toledo (the railroad between the latter places was not in operation) and by Michigan Southern railroad to Chicago, stopping en route to visit friends in southern Michigan. From Chicago, a side trip was made to Milwaukee by steamer returning by rail and stage (an open sleigh) via Madison, Wisconsin and Rockford, Illinois. This was not a "Homeseeker's" trip, for at that time I had no thought of making a home in the west, but the microbe got in its work and in due time developed into a case of genuine western fever.

In the spring of 1853 Mr. E. R. Fay and myself came west together and without much delay he decided to locate in Ottawa, Illinois. He opened an office there and in due time became a leading banker of the place. This time I did not stay west long but came again the following spring prepared to make some investments. Three or four of us joined together and employed a surveyor (Major Hitt) and he and I made many selections from government lands in Livingston county, and went together to the land office in Danville to purchase the same, but for some reason they could not, or would not sell at that time but

placed our application on file; but nothing came of it. It was claimed that other filings were ahead of ours. Returning from Danville via the Danville and Ottawa travel road, we evidently passed over the present site of Paxton, but there was nothing in sight, not even a railroad stake, as I believe, to fix the location in my memory, but I claim this was my first visit to Paxton. About 4 P. M. our road led us near to D. C. Stoners' house, which he had built and moved his family into a short time before. Learning that there was no house of any kind on this line of road nearer than Oliver's Grove, twenty miles or more away, we decided to remain with the Stoners over night. This was my first night in Ford county.

My second trip through Ford county was in 1854. A business trip for H. F. Eames, then a banker at Ottawa and later president of Commercial National Bank of Chicago, took me to Decatur via the Illinois Central main line, thence to Danville by stage coach. Rain and mud interfered with further progress. Finally, learning that the Illinois Central (Chicago branch) was laid as far south as Pera (now Ludlow) and that a mixed train left that point for Chicago at about two P. M. each day, another party and I engaged a livery man to take us to that place, agreeing to pay him ten dollars if he got us there before the train left, otherwise eight dollars. The last mile or two was made with the team on the full run and the locomotive calling us at every jump. We got into Chicago at about 1 A. M. next morning. We were the only passengers and we left the train at Hyde Park, then quite outside the city limits.

This second passage over the present site of Paxton, like the first, left no special impression on my mind. It was only a part of the great grand prairie. The spring of 1855 found Leander Britt, a personal friend from my native town, and myself in Chicago, and fully decided to make the west our future home. Great bargains in the way of city lots were offered us and glowing pictures of prospective profits on such investments were spread before us by wide-awake real-estate dealers, but it was broad acres of rolling prairie that we sought, not the limited area of mud and water called a city lot.

The Illinois Central Railroad lands had just been put on the market and a few interviews with the officials and their promise of special inducements to early buyers, soon decided us to investigate along their lines, and with a horse and buggy shipped from New York and with railroad passes in our pockets to use if needed, we set out by ourselves on a prospecting tour southward. It was lovely spring weather, and fairly good roads, and, but for poor board and poorer lodgings, it would have been in every way enjoyable. However, at Loda we found things in this line quite satisfactory. Mr. Russell, the station

agent, and his wife were late arrivals, and had plenty of good things to eat and knew how to use them. There was no other family or person there and they seemed glad to see us and have us stay awhile, so we took the opportunity to rest our horse and fill ourselves up. We were favorably impressed with the country in the vicinity of Loda and southward, and after going as far south as Champaign, then the terminus of the railroad, returned to Loda and made a sort of headquarters there.

About this time we visited Middleport, now Watseka, and in an interview with a former resident of our native county in New York and who was then a judge of Iroquois county, he stated that in his opinion a new county could be made from that part of Vermilion county which is now Ford county, and explained why it could be made in no other way. Also, that if properly managed the county seat could be made at some point located on the Illinois Central Railroad where it crossed said proposed new county. Previous to this time, we had selected with the view of purchase three and one-half sections eastward from the present town of Paxton, and with this new thought in mind, we added to our list the eighty acres covering the central portion of this city as it stands today. Material concessions in price were made to us on the three and one-half sections, and on the performance of certain conditions, a side track was promised us on the eighty acre tract. No mention was made at that time to any one of our possible plan for the new county and county seat.

In spite of the financial calamities of 1857 and consequent depression of all land values, the three and one-half sections were finally disposed of and handsome profits realized. The promise of the side track was secured by the land department from Superintendent Doane and conditioned that George B. McClellan, the chief engineer, approve. This he promptly did and in this way became cognizant to the agreement, which proved of vast importance to us as will be explained later on in this paper.

Our purchase of the eighty acres and our scheme for a new county and county seat were carefully concealed at that time. Plans for a new county with Loda for county seat were already talked of and symptoms of a boom for Loda were manifest. Our final contracts for the land were made in June, 1855. I then went home to assist in the harvest on the old farm, but returned to Illinois in November and stayed till January, 1856. I again made Mr. Russell's headquarters and Mr. Addison Goodell and I occupied the ladies' room in passenger house and slept (when not kept awake by wolves) on a folding cot or sofa, which I had purchased in Chicago. Soon after New Years I went home to New York and came back early in April and date my residence in Illinois from that time.

During this winter, 1855-6 I purchased in my own name one hundred and sixty acres covering "the Hill" and the more level land north thereof to the east road, also, in connection with A. D. Southworth, a full section (six hundred and forty acres) near the present town of Rankin for two dollars and fifty cents per acre, and later sold my half for fourteen dollars per acre.

A few days before my final departure from New York, at his request, I made known to W. H. Pells our plans and prospects for a new county. He then proposed to join us in the enterprise provided certain other lands adjoining could be purchased, and of course provided that, upon examination, he found things as I stated them to be. It was understood that we should secure options on these certain lands, and, when this was done he would come out and investigate. This he did early in June, 1856 and was well pleased. The land was purchased and the firm of Pells, Britt & Murdock created.

The new firm controlled three hundred and forty acres—all that was most desirable for town site purposes. After Mr. Britt's death, Mr. Pells arranged for the Britt undivided one-third interest. Having secured all the land we cared to purchase ourselves, we then proposed to certain persons to purchase land adjoining our own and thus become interested in the scheme. Mr. James Mix was one of these persons and he promptly acted on our suggestion. The purchase proved profitable to him and he very useful to the enterprise. Until this time—midsummer 1856—our plan, even the fact of our owning any lands at this point, was carefully concealed. Paxton then consisted of three small houses, located near the south railroad crossing of the present town. There were no other improvements in sight, not even a stake to indicate that a town had ever been thought of. Meantime, Loda was booming in anticipation of its becoming the county seat of a new county.

In September the survey of the town plat was commenced and the erection of a six room house was rushed as fast as men and the delivery of material would permit, and, before it was fairly finished, Mrs. James B. Taft, a widowed sister of Mr. Britt, arrived from the east, prepared to take charge of it. This duty was ably and faithfully performed by her, and, although not so intended, necessity made it a sort of hotel for a while and the little house was often filled to overflowing. Mr. Britt lived and died in this house and after his death Mrs. Taft and her son O. B. Taft, now of Chicago, resided there for many years.

During the summer of 1856 improvements were made by Britt and Murdock on one of the half sections of railroad land, as was agreed on their purchase. These improvements and certain other conditions having been fulfilled, we asked for the side track that had been promised by Superintendent Doane and endorsed

by George B. McClellan but Superintendent Doane was dead, and the president then acting as superintendent would not recognize the agreement made with us. McClellan then took the matter up for us and we learned that he and the president had some hot words over it, but the president would not yield. Mr. McClellan said "Wait," with a manner implying that we should finally get the side track. Later we got word from him to come to Chicago and I went promptly. At the office he stated that the president had gone to Europe and that he himself was acting superintendent and requested me to meet him at his boarding house in the evening. At this meeting it was arranged that we should have a regular station with a side track and some sort of station building, which proved to be an old shop, wrecked, moved and set up again, made fairly comfortable but far from ornamental. We were to grade for the side track and I was to act as station agent, the consideration therefor to be a commission on gross receipts. My first month's pay was eight dollars and thirty-six cents. I held the position for several years and until the per cent amounted to much more than the company was willing to allow as salary for the services rendered. I then resigned. The station was opened for business on or about December 1, 1856.

About the time the station matter was settled, and before the side track was completed, Blaine & Hanly shipped in a full train of lumber—twenty cars or more. It had to be unloaded while standing on the main line. Everybody from far and near lent a hand and the work was done in double-quick time.

A postoffice was easily obtained by removing the old Ten Mile Grove office, but a new name for it and the station was demanded. This proved less easy to settle than was expected. The appropriate and desirable names seemed to be already in use elsewhere. Our neighbors took occasion to suggest some names for us, but we accepted none of them. Prospect City was finally adopted, the promoter, whoever he was explaining that the "Prospect" was in consideration of its sightly situation, its prospective views in all directions, etc. Everything was "City" in those days—it was the fashion—so "City" was affixed. Almost the first new arrival after the name was proclaimed looked around carefully and declared it was all prospect and no city. He took the next train and never came back. We soon tired of the name and changed it to Paxton in honor of Lord Paxton of Scotland, then a large Illinois Central stock holder. We expected a visit and perhaps a present from him but he never came. However we got a good name for our town. The new postoffice was created, I think, November, 1856, and Mr. Leander Britt was made postmaster and filled that position for several years—as long as his failing health permitted.

Promptly on the convening of the 1857 session of the Illinois state legislature, delegates from Loda appeared with their plan for a new county, of course so shaped that Loda must become the county seat thereof.

We were at that time nowise prepared for a new county fight, and if a county seat had been tendered us then we could not have accepted or cared for it.

Our hope lay in postponing the issue for two years. The law provided, (and still provides) that the legislature may authorize a vote on the question of new counties, and when made up from two or more counties, must have a majority vote of each and every county interested. We had good reason to believe that Iroquois county would not, at that time consent to separate any portion of its territory for any purpose whatever, but we felt obliged to make some sort of fight in the matter and to have a delegation in Springfield to care for our interests there. It was arranged that Mr. Britt and Mr. Mix should do this work and the duty was well performed.

Such questions are practically settled in the committee room; the legislature simply sanctions by formal vote what the committee recommends. In the committee room much haggling and loud talk were indulged in. Many different plans were proposed. Several such sessions were held. Finally a new county bill was submitted, promptly passed and signed by the governor.

The Loda delegates had asked for six miles off the west side of Iroquois county and that part of Vermilion county now Ford county but perhaps due to a confusion in the committee room, a mistake was made and the bill as passed called for twelve miles off Iroquois county and six miles square out of the northwest corner of what is now Vermilion county. Both counties voted against the new county as proposed. The Loda delegation never quite understood how this mistake occurred.

The years 1857 and 1858 were lively seasons for both towns. Both claimed to be dead sure of becoming the county seat, and both gained rapidly in population and trade, and as the period for the legislative session of 1859, both prepared for the fight of their lives. W. H. Pells, James Mix and Leander Britt were our regular delegation and spent most of the winter in Springfield. I and others were there for brief periods.

Loda's plan for the new county necessarily involved a portion of Iroquois county. Our plan was Ford county as it now exists. There was no other town in it and our chance to become the county seat was thus assured. It was plain that Vermilion county would vote off that much and no more for a new county. The issue was with Iroquois county. Would the voters favor cutting off any part for the new county? Those favoring the Loda scheme declared they would.



WILLIAM H. PELLIS

BIOGRAPHICAL.

WILLIAM H. PELLIS.

William H. Pellis, who was so well known to the early settlers of this community for his enterprise, integrity and sterling worth, may well be called not only one of the fathers of Paxton, but also of Ford county. He was a native of Poughkeepsie, New York, born June 12, 1813. His educational advantages were limited to a few years' attendance at the schools of his native city, but by reading and contact with the business world he became a well informed man and a shrewd financier. When only thirteen years of age he was compelled by force of circumstances to begin life's struggle on his own account. His father, who was financially well-to-do, by endorsing for others became involved in financial ruin.

The independence and self-reliance of young William asserted themselves in a marked degree. Going to New York city, he spent six months driving a milk wagon, after which he secured a position as clerk in a grocery store, continuing until 1830. That year witnessed his emigration to Palmyra, New York, where he arrived penniless. Though not an experienced woodman, he replenished his exchequer by chopping wood and clearing land. Though a mere boy, he was possessed of indomitable energy and if he could not get employment to which he was accustomed, he accustomed himself to such employment as he could get. The same business he followed at Ridgeway. There on the 19th of November, 1831, he entered the store of H. Francis as clerk. His carefully husbanded earnings were judiciously invested in good lands in that vicinity, which were then selling from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per acre, and thus was laid a safe foundation for financial growth. Domestic by nature, Mr. Pellis early in life sought to surround himself with the hallowed influence of wife and home. The lady of his choice was Miss Maria B. Whitaker, a native of Norfolk, England, to whom he was married in 1836.

After clerking ten years Mr. Pellis became a full partner in the store with his employer and in 1846 became sole proprietor, continuing until 1851 with marked success. Admitting his brother to partnership, the business was carried on by the two until 1856, when Mr. Pellis disposed of his entire interest. The same year he purchased from the Medina & Alabama Plank Road Company that part of the road extending from Medina to Ridgeway. In the hands of the Company it had been a losing investment, but Mr. Pellis with characteristic thoroughness, rebuilt it with elegant gravel, making it one of the best roads in the state, paying a liberal yearly dividend on the large amount of money expended in its construction. He continued to operate the road until the charter expired in 1881.

In 1856, Mr. Pellis came to what is now Ford County, Illinois, though then it was part of Vermilion County. He, R. R. Murdock and Leander Britt purchased the site and laid out Prospect City, as Paxton was then called. With

commendable pride he watched the growth of the infant town and to the last heartily assisted in everything that would advance its growth. In 1859 he took a prominent part in the organization of Ford county and in making Paxton the seat of justice. Schools, churches and charities of all kinds found in him a liberal supporter. Every interest promising to be beneficial to the town or county claimed his attention.

In 1866 he began the erection of Pells' Block, completing it in 1867, a three-story brick block with 50 feet frontage on Market street, where the Lee & Grayson and Samuelson brick business buildings now stand.

The two first floor rooms were occupied by the J. S. Loose dry-goods store and the bank of Toy & Thompson, until they built the bank building now owned by Paxton bank. The second floor was occupied by offices and for years the Paxton Record had its home on the third floor. This was the first iron front building erected in Ford county. This block was destroyed by fire in October, 1874, that began in the next building south of this, and burned eleven business houses before it could be checked.

He was one of the promoters and organizers of the Lafayette, Bloomington & Mississippi Railroad Company and for several years was its vice president. But for his earnest efforts and those of a few others along the line of the road, it probably never would have been built. It has since become a part of the Lake Erie & Western system.

In 1876 he visited Petoskey, Michigan, and being favorably impressed with the climate and soil, purchased a large tract of land containing twelve thousand acres in Emmet county, which was then almost an unbroken forest, inhabited by one hundred whites and eleven hundred Indians. In 1882 the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad ran through Mr. Pells' tract of land, near the center of which sprang up a town, named by the railroad company in honor of him, Pellston.

In political sentiment Mr. Pells was an old-line democrat, a great admirer of Stephen A. Douglas and like Douglas, a war democrat, contributing always most liberally for the good of the soldiers and their families. Though not an aspirant for places of public trust, he held a number of official positions. In religious belief he was a Universalist.

Mr. and Mrs. Pells had a family of three children, though only one now living; Hannah W., wife of Colonel Charles Bogardus, of Paxton. His son, Edgar Z. Pells, died at Rochester, New York, in 1899.

After a brief married life of only nine years, Mr. Pells was deprived by death of his companion. Notwithstanding he survived her over forty years, she was his only wedded companion. On the 26th of June, 1886, Mr. Pells joined his wife and child in the spirit world, while his body was laid to rest beside that of his wife at Ridgeway, New York. He was a man possessed of such traits of character as are worthy to be imitated and should never be forgotten; shrewd and far-sighted in business affairs, scrupulously honest, free-hearted, charitable, with a kind word and tender thought for all. His charities were always unostentatious and quietly given and kept from the public when possible.

COLONEL CHARLES BOGARDUS.

The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been gained through his own efforts and whose methods have ever been such as will bear close investigation and scrutiny. Such has been the record of Colonel Charles Bogardus, one of the most prominent and influential citizens of Ford county. The progenitor of the different branches of the Bogardus family in America was Everardus Bogardus, a Dutch Reform clergyman, who emigrated from Holland to New Amsterdam (now New York city,) in 1633, and was the second minister in that city, residing on what is now Broad street. In 1638 he married Annetje, widow of Roelof Jansen, (her name was corrupted later into Anneke Jans,) who had obtained a grant of sixty-two acres of land, (she being a relative of King William and Mary,) in what is now the center of New York city. This farm, long known as "Dominie's Bowery," in time became vested in Trinity church by unfair means and caused continuous litigation until about the middle of the nineteenth century. He is the only one of the name that has come to this country.

Colonel Bogardus is a lineal descendant of the above clergyman and is a son of James H. and Louisa M. Bogardus. He was born in Cayuga county, New York, March 28, 1841, and when but little over six years of age was left an orphan, both parents being taken away by an epidemic. He was taken by an uncle, W. H. Bogardus, who gave him common-school advantages until he was about twelve years of age, at which time young Charles entered a grocery store as clerk at a salary of a dollar and a half per week. This position he held for nearly four years, receiving increase in salary from time to time. His earnings were paid every Saturday night to the uncle, who, without the boy's knowledge, invested the same for him and subsequently offered to turn all over to him, notwithstanding his uncle was a poor man. But the boy, although only eighteen years of age, declined the offer and the money with thanks.

When in his sixteenth year he went to Ridgeway, New York, to accept a clerkship in the store of another uncle at eight dollars per month and board. He was rapidly advanced in position and salary, becoming head clerk before he was nineteen.

Early in August, 1862, Colonel Bogardus, having just attained his majority, enlisted for the war in Company A, One Hundred and Fifty-first New York Infantry. But before going to the field he was united in marriage, on the 17th of August, 1862, to Miss Hannah W., daughter of William H. Pells, both of whom are mentioned on other pages of this volume. On the organization of the company, August 13, 1862, Colonel Bogardus was elected first Lieutenant; was promoted to the rank of captain of Company I, December 12, 1862; to lieutenant colonel December 10, 1864; and was breveted colonel by order of the president of the United States "for gallant and meritorious services in the charge in front of Petersburg, Virginia, April 2, 1865." The letter from the governor of New York accompanying the commission states the reason for granting the commission and reads as follows:

"Colonel, I have the pleasure to transmit herewith a brevet commission

conferred by the president, in recognition of your faithful and distinguished services in the war. I feel a just pride in this acknowledgment of the gallantry and devotion of an officer of this state, which serves to heighten the reputation won by the valor and constancy of the soldiers of New York.

Very truly yours,

R. E. FENTON, Governor."

Colonel Bogardus was twice wounded in the battle of Monocacy, Maryland, July 9 1864, an engagement comparatively insignificant in itself but important in its results, about three thousand Union troops by the skillful management of General Lew Wallace, held in check nearly six times their number for twenty-four hours, thus giving General Grant barely time to move the first and second divisions of the Sixth Army Corps from City Point, Virginia, to Washington, arriving there just as the Confederate General Early appeared in front of the outer defenses of Washington. Had that heroic little band of boys in blue given way, the Capital City must have fallen a prey to the enemy. In the battle of the Wilderness the Sixth Corps to which Colonel Bogardus belonged, was on the extreme right and all remember what a desperate effort Lee made to crush that part of Grant's army; next followed in rapid succession the battles of Spottsylvania, Tolopotomy and Cold Harbor, (in the latter battle his regiment lost five captains and the young, then Captain Bogardus, came out of this battle acting as lieutenant colonel, all officers above him in rank but one having been shot.) Mine Run, Petersburg, Sailors Creek, Appomatox, or Lee's surrender, and the other battles and skirmishes in which he was engaged will ever be remembered, as experiences in our subject's army life.

When getting ready for the battle of Petersburg, the Colonel's orderly, Johnny Byron, packed one pocket of the colonel's overcoat, tightly with hard tack, when putting it on, discovering it, told the orderly to take them out. Byron begged him to leave them in saying it might be a long time before he could get anything else to eat. He was very fond of Byron and to please him let them remain. Later a confederate sharp-shooter's bullet was deflected by the hard-tack just enough to save his hip and perhaps his life, making a very severe bruise and lameness, but the hip was saved.

At the battle of Monocacy, July 9, 1864, Colonel Bogardus was so severely wounded that he could not endure to be transferred by ambulance, hence was carried three miles on a stretcher to the hospital at Frederick City, Maryland. Had his injuries been less he would have been sent to Richmond or to Libby prison. Frederick City soon fell into the hands of the Union troops again, and he was transferred, about three months after, when able to travel, to the officers' hospital at Annapolis, Maryland, where he regained his strength sufficiently to come home on crutches and cast his first presidential vote for Lincoln. As soon as he could get about by the use of a cane he returned to his command and served until he was mustered out on the 26th of June, 1865. A striking illustration of the wonderful transforming power of ideas on the lives and actions of men is given in the case of Colonel Bogardus and his maternal grandfather. The latter owned and worked slaves in New York state before



CHARLES BOGARDUS



MRS. CHARLES BOGARDUS

they were manumitted—the former risked his own life for their freedom, and today the negro accounts the Colonel one of his warmest friends. In 1885 he was appointed colonel and aide-de-camp by Governor Oglesby, and was re-appointed in 1889 by Governor Fifer, holding the two positions eight years.

When hostilities had ceased Colonel Bogardus returned to Ridgeway, New York, where he became a partner of his old employer, A. V. Pells. (to whom he feels he owes much of his success,) in the mercantile business, continuing until failing health, the effect of his wound, compelled him to quit mercantile pursuits. In April, 1872, he became a resident of Paxton and has since been prominently identified with its best interests, as well as those of the surrounding country. The varied and extensive business interests he successfully conducts prove him to be a man of broad comprehension and of fine executive ability. Besides doing a large real-estate and loan business he is extensively interested in stock-raising and farming, owning several thousand acres of valuable farming land in Illinois. He was president of the Ninth Congressional District Farmers' Institute from its organization. It grew to be one of the largest in the state. Democratic reapportionment destroyed it geographically, thus ending it after years of success. He was one of the organizers of the Paxton Brick & Tile Company, of which he was a director and part owner for twenty-one years, and was one of the incorporators of the Paxton Canning Company, another substantial concern. He sold his interest in both these companies some years ago. He was one of the incorporators and the first president of the Paxton Building, Loan and Savings Association and has been reelected twenty-five times, now serving his twenty-sixth year.

Upon the death of Mrs. Bogardus' father, she and her brother inherited among other properties a large tract of timber land in northern Michigan, later on the death of her brother, November, 1899, his interests became hers also. In the spring of 1900, at her request, he went to Michigan to look over the properties for her, getting up from a sick bed to do so; he spent the summer getting well and studying the properties and in the fall founded the first mill for the manufacture of shingles, next a sawmill, later a planing-mill, another sawmill, lath-mills were added, in the meantime he had located Tindle & Jackson, the largest manufacturers of slack cooperage, broom handles and hoops in the world. An extensive turning works was recently started, which with other matters has made Pellston jump from one child in the public school when he and his wife arrived there, and a population of three or four families, until today Pellston has a school census of three hundred and eighty-seven, and a total population of between eighteen hundred and nineteen hundred. Has a village organization, fire department, system of water works, shade trees on each side of every street, fine park, and is already quite a pretentious young city, still rapidly growing, and has changed under his short administration from the smallest hamlet and postoffice to the second largest in the county.

He is president of the Bogardus Land & Lumber Company, is interested in the Pellston Light & Power Company, in the Pellston Planing Mills and the Pellston Turning & Manufacturing Company. In all of his business interests

he has been assisted by his estimable wife, a lady of good business ability and keen discrimination. Colonel Bogardus and his wife have donated fourteen hundred and forty-one acres to the University of Michigan for the purpose of establishing a summer school for the engineering department of that university. The land is valuable and the gift is one of the most generous ever made in that state. The regents have named it the "Bogardus Engineering Camp of the University of Michigan," in honor of the donors.

In political affairs Colonel Bogardus has been a prominent and influencing factor. He has served two terms, 1884 to 1888, in the lower house of the state legislature, and at the close of his second term as representative, he was elected, in 1888, senator, was reelected to the senate in 1892 and again reelected in 1896, from the eighteenth senatorial district, serving as a member of the legislature for sixteen consecutive years. In the fifteen county and senatorial conventions before which he was a candidate for nomination for House and Senate, he received a unanimous vote in each case. One of his important bills, and the first to become a law on the subject in Illinois, is that compelling instruction in the public schools, in physiology and hygiene, with reference to the effects of alcoholic beverages, stimulants and narcotics on the human system. Another bill worthy of mention is that regulating the weight of flour, compelling full weights under severe penalties. The indigent soldiers' bill, the bill establishing a State Board of Pardons, and the bill to promote the education of children to prevent truancy, are among the valuable laws that bear his name. In the thirty-fourth general assembly he was one of the republican members who in that memorable senatorial contest, which lasted four months, succeeded in electing General John A. Logan to the senate of the United States. Subsequently the one hundred and three republicans who stood so firmly by the general, organized themselves into a society called the "Logan 103," of which Colonel Bogardus was secretary and treasurer from its organization until he declined to serve longer. In the thirty-fifth general assembly he was unanimously chosen chairman of the republican house caucus for the session. At each session he was appointed on some of the most important committees and held several important chairmanships. In 1895 he was chosen president pro tem by acclamation in the republican caucus—the highest place in the gift of the senate. In 1895, in the absence of the governor and lieutenant governor, he was constitutional governor of Illinois for some time. Strong and positive in his republicanism, his party fealty is not grounded on partisan prejudice, and he enjoys the respect and confidence of all his associates, irrespective of party. Of the great issues which divide the two parties, with their roots extending down to the very bed-rock of the foundation of the republic, he has the true statesman's grasp. Well grounded in the political maxims of the schools, he also studied the lessons of actual life, arriving at his conclusions as a result of what may be called his post-graduate studies in the school of affairs. Such men, whether in office or out, are the natural leaders of whichever party they may be identified with, especially in that movement toward higher politics which is common to both parties and which constitutes the most hopeful political sign of the period.

Colonel Bogardus has but one living child, Maria L., wife of Oscar R. Zipf, an attorney of Freeport, Illinois. He has four grandsons: Oscar Robert, Charles B., George K. and Theodore F. He lost his only son, Edgar A., in 1889, aged fifteen and one half years.

Our subject has also been interested in local politics, having for six years served as a member of the city council, and for nine years on the school board, of which he was president a part of that time. He was a trustee of Paxton Collegiate Institute for years. He maintains pleasant relations with his old army comrades, is a member of Paxton Post, No. 387, of which he was the first commander. He is likewise a member of Paxton Lodge, No. 416, A. F. & A. M., Ford Chapter, No. 113, R. A. M., Mount Olivet Commandery, No. 38, K. T., Gibson Council, No. 72, R. & S. M., and Patton Lodge, No. 498, K. P. He and his wife attend the Presbyterian church, to the support of which they contribute liberally, giving generously to all church and charitable interests, as did also the daughter, who is gratefully remembered at Paxton for her exemplary character, her interest in church work, and particularly her successful career as teacher and superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday school when she was but a young miss herself. Her kindness of heart was well known among the less fortunate and their needs when known to her had quick attention, with always a wish on her part that only The Master, the recipients and herself should know.

The terms, progress and patriotism, might be considered the keynote of Colonel Bogardus' character, for throughout his career he has labored for the improvement of every line of business or public interest with which he has been associated, and at all times has been actuated by a fidelity to his country and her welfare. The difficulties which he had to encounter in his own business career have made him ever ready to extend a helping hand to young men who are starting out in life without capital as he did, to whom his business record should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement.

MRS. CHARLES BOGARDUS.

Mrs. Charles Bogardus, nee Hannah W. Pells, only daughter of the late William H. Pells, one of the founders of Paxton, first saw Paxton in 1860, on a visit with her father and brother, little thinking it was destined to be her future home, where the greater part of her life would be spent.

In April, 1872, she left her old home in Ridgeway, Orleans county, New York, where she was born and married, and with her husband, Colonel Charles Bogardus, their little daughter and her father, Mr. Pells, came to Paxton, where a family home for them all was established.

Mrs. B., as she is familiarly called by many, is much like her father in disposition and ways, inherits his business traits in a marked degree. She has always been the confidant of her husband, who always counsels with her on

propositions of any moment, and he says: "She never advised him wrong." Simple and domestic in her taste, her home is her earthly Heaven.

Flowers are to her a great pleasure, and with the ample grounds of the home, she has gratified her taste with careful selections of choice kinds, among which were forty varieties of roses.

< Her large circle of friends is made up for their true worth without a thought of wealth or social position. Many people of lowly station are among her most cherished friends, and by whom she is greatly beloved. It is not strange that she is so well beloved by all. Kind of heart and charitable, but always wanting her charities unknown. A friend of education, for many years she and her husband kept a certain number of pupils in Rice Collegiate Institute at their own expense; trying to keep it secret, but the young people benefited told it, much to their regret. The writer learns that many young men and women had a helping hand from them. Some are teachers and others occupy business positions today.

Paxton was without a park and she gave a block of ground set to trees for that purpose. The public wanted an addition to the park, again she responded with a gift of more ground, with the only stipulation that the gifts should bear the name of "Pells Park," in honor of her father.

The University of Michigan needed grounds for their engineering studies and other university work, and they had but a small appropriation for it. She and her husband talked the matter over with the university committee, learned their needs and together gave them a deed to one thousand, four hundred and forty-one acres, with three miles of lake frontage, worth about twelve times the amount of their appropriation as appraised by the committee representing the university.

A good wife, best of mothers, a kind-hearted neighbor, most considerate of the welfare of her friends; a noble woman, well worthy to be the wife of her distinguished husband who has been the recipient of high military and civil honors constantly since he attained his majority.

We were told a little story by one of her intimate friends, in confidence, yet we are going to tell it, knowing she would object, as it best illustrates her kindness of heart and consideration of the poor better than a volume could express it. Some years ago during the game season, her husband sent some quail to her, of which she is very fond. A few moments after the quail had been received and put away, a tramp came to the back door and asked for something to eat. Mrs. B. overheard him asking for some meat, saying he had not tasted meat for days. There happened to be none in the house. She at once invited him in, her cook being indisposed, she dressed the largest quail and cooked it with other things, giving him a breakfast that rarely falls to the lot of a tramp. The cook told of it, and her friends of course joked her; her reply was that she only did her duty and would feed quail to one of God's unfortunates again if he seemed worthy. She said the thanks and look of thankfulness given her by the aged man and his words, as he raised his much



JOHN A. MONTELIUS



WILLIAM A. PIPER

worn cap, "Lady, that is the best meal I have eaten since I had a home of my own." were worth many times the trouble of dressing and cooking the quail and getting him a breakfast. No person was ever turned away hungry from her door.

Mrs. Bogardus inherited from her father and brother large property interests in Michigan, Illinois, city of Paxton and elsewhere, in which she takes a keen interest. She and her husband spend much of their time at Pellston, the namesake of her father; her deep interest in the growth, and her constant thoughtfulness for the welfare of this youthful city, and the betterment of its people have caused her to be called "The Mother of Pellston," and still her love for Paxton and Paxton interests and her people have never diminished.

She has kept pace with her husband, in all his undertakings has been his faithful helpmate and most valued counselor.

*Died at Pellston. Mich
July 9. 1923 - 7 P. M.*

HON. JOHN A. MONTELIUS.

The specific and distinctive office of biography is not to give voice to a man's modest estimate of himself and his accomplishments but rather to leave the perpetual record establishing his character by the consensus of opinion on the part of his fellowmen. Throughout Ford county Hon. John A. Montelius is spoken of in terms of admiration and respect. His life has been so varied in its activity, so honorable in its purposes, so far-reaching and beneficial in its effects that it has become an integral part of Piper City and has also left an impress upon the annals of the state. While in one sense he cannot be called a public man, albeit he has held some political offices, he has nevertheless exerted an immeasurable influence on the city of his residence; in business life as a financier and promoter of extensive commercial and industrial enterprises; in social circles by reason of a charming personality and unfeigned cordiality; in politics by reason of his public spirit and devotion to the general good as well as to his comprehensive understanding of any questions affecting state and national welfare; and in those departments of activity which work for the betterment of mankind through his benevolence and his liberality.

Mr. Montelius was born in Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, May 29, 1844, and is a descendant of Frederick Marcus Montelius, who started across the Atlantic in the winter of 1773, landing in Philadelphia, on the 25th of August. He carried on merchandising there for some time and afterward removed to Reamstown, Pennsylvania, where his death occurred. John Montelius, his son, and the grandfather of John A. Montelius, took up his abode in Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, about 1800, and followed the trade of a tanner as a means of livelihood. He became one of the prominent and influential residents of his locality, which

he represented in the state legislature, also serving as associate judge of the county.

His family numbered six sons and six daughters, including Charles Montelius, who was born in Mifflinburg in 1811. In early manhood he learned the tanner's trade but afterward engaged in merchandising. In 1837 he wedded Rebecca Howard Piper, who died in 1866 and the following year Mr. Montelius came to Piper City and resided with his son, John A. They were in business together through the succeeding six years, after which Charles Montelius retired. At his death in 1882 his remains were taken back to Pennsylvania and laid by the side of his wife. His early political allegiance was given to the whig party and upon its dissolution he became a republican. A prominent member of the Presbyterian church, he served as one of its elders for many years, and his life was ever upright and honorable. Of his family two children died in infancy. One son, William Piper, completed his literary education in Lafayette College and spent two years in Western Theological Seminary at Allegheny. He then became connected with the Christian Commission and in the fall of 1864 was stationed at Huntsville, Alabama. He died June 15, 1865, at Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, from disease contracted in this service. Harry G. Montelius, the youngest brother of our subject, was born in Mifflinburg, September 2, 1859, and died in California, February 18, 1899.

At the usual age John A. Montelius began his education as a pupil in the public schools of his native city and when he put aside his text-books in 1859 he entered upon his business career as a salesman in a store in Milton, Pennsylvania. He also spent one year in Lewisburg and in 1861 he enlisted at the first call for volunteers, going to Camp Curtin, at Harrisburg, but was rejected. He then reenlisted on the 17th of June, 1863, for one hundred days' service, becoming a member of Company D, Thirty-first Pennsylvania Infantry, which time he spent at Cumberland, Maryland. He was discharged at Harrisburg, August 8, 1863, and on the 12th of July, 1864, again joined the Union army, as a member of the First Battalion of Pennsylvania Infantry, with which he continued until honorably discharged on the 11th of November following. Thus before he attained the age of twenty years he had three times enlisted for defense of the Union.

In the fall of 1865 Mr. Montelius further qualified for the business world as a student in Quaker City Business College of Philadelphia, and in the summer of 1866 he held a position in the Corn Exchange National Bank of Philadelphia. Thinking to find better business opportunities in the middle west he arrived in Piper City on the 14th of November, 1866, and has since been a resident of Ford county, where he has figured most prominently in business affairs. On the 6th of December he joined his uncle, Dr. Piper, in whose honor Piper City was named, in the conduct of a general mercantile enterprise. Changes in the partnership from time to time induced the adoption of the firm style of Piper, Montelius & Company, C. Montelius & Son and J. A. Montelius, for in later years Mr. Montelius became sole proprietor. He

has figured prominently in the financial circles of the city since 1867. He was originally connected with his father in banking and sold out to Campbell & Thompson, with the intention of devoting his time to his extensive landed interests. He organized the First National Bank of Piper City and from the beginning, April 14, 1900, has been its president. Previous to this he conducted the Piper City Bank, a private bank, which he bought of Durham Brothers in 1896. The National Bank is capitalized for fifty thousand dollars, and his son, Joseph K., is associated with him in this enterprise. The bank has become recognized as one of the strongest financial concerns of Ford county and this part of the state, having been established on a safe, conservative basis, while the policy maintained has always been such as to merit the unqualified confidence and trust of the public.

Almost from the beginning of his residence here Mr. Montelius has likewise been engaged in the grain trade. He is a man of resourceful ability, recognizing and utilizing opportunities that others pass by heedlessly. He owns two grain elevators in Piper City, the business being now conducted by his son, George D., under the firm name of George D. Montelius & Company. For forty years he has been associated with the grain trade and his operations in that line have brought him a gratifying financial return. From time to time Mr. Montelius has made very extensive investments in realty and is now the owner of over five thousand acres in Ford and Iroquois counties. He and his three sons are conducting their business interests under the same roof and the name of Montelius is one of the strongest in trade and financial circles in this part of the state. The youngest son, John A., is conducting the implement business which was established by the father about three decades ago. At one time Mr. Montelius also conducted a branch agricultural implement store at Kempton but has withdrawn from that field, since turning over this department of his business to his son.

Not only in business lines but also in many other ways Mr. Montelius has been a most active and potent factor in the life of the city. In early manhood he served for a number of terms as supervisor of Brenton township and was chairman of the board. In 1900 he was elected representative of his district in the general assembly and his legislative course was so satisfactory to his constituents that he was reelected in 1902, serving in the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the house. In the latter he had the honor of introducing the local option bill, drawn by the Anti-Saloon League, of which he is a member. He also introduced amendments to the farm drainage law, which were of great benefit to this section of the state. He served on the revenue and banking committees and was chairman of the committee of Soldiers and Sailors Home and the Orphans Home at Normal. He stood with thirty-nine Sherman men who went to defeat together. He lacked but a few votes of election to the speakership of the general assembly at the time when John H. Miller was chosen. He is a warm personal as well as political friend of Shelby M. Cullom, and has a wide acquaintance and friendship among many

of the distinguished political leaders of the state. In 1904 he was chosen the presidential elector and cast his ballot for Roosevelt. Mr. Montelius has been a student of the problems which constitute political interest at the present day and of the great issues which divide the two parties with their roots extending down to the bedrock of the foundation of the republic, he has a true statesman's grasp. His ideas and labors concerning politics and those interests which are to be conserved through political labor have been at all times intensely practical.

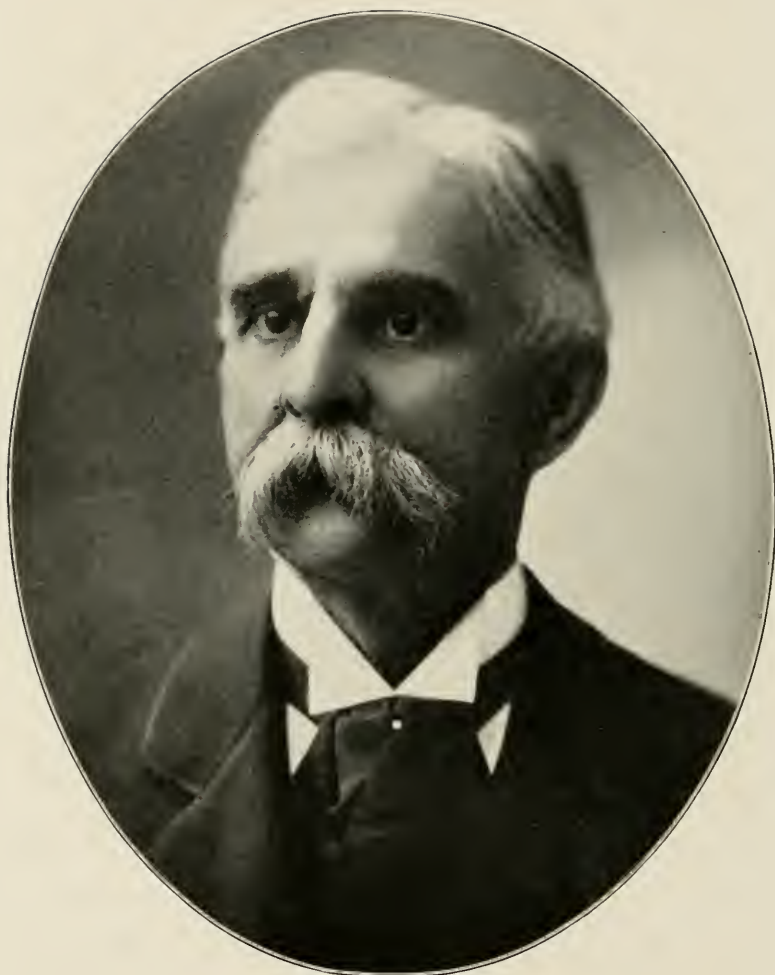
Mr. Montelius was married on the 8th of October, 1867, in Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania, to Miss Catherine Gast, a native of that city and a daughter of Henry and Mary Gast. They became the parents of six children: Charles Henry, who died in infancy; the three sons mentioned above; and Maggie and Mary Rebecca, the daughters of the family, at home.

Mr. Montelius is a member of the Grand Army post of Piper City, being one of its organizers and the only charter member now living, and he is prominent in the order in Illinois. He is an exemplary Mason, being a charter member of Piper Lodge, No. 608, A. F. & A. M.; Fairbury Chapter, No. 99, R. A. M.; and St. Paul Commandery, No. 34, K. T. at Fairbury. He has also attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite in the Oriental consistory of Chicago. While his life has been a most busy one, his extensive business interests and political service making constant demands upon his time and attention, he has yet found opportunity to devote to the higher, holier duties of life, which many men neglect in the press and stress of business interests. For many years he has been an elder of the Presbyterian church and superintendent of the Sunday school, and his efforts in behalf of the church have been far-reaching and effective.

His business career seems in a measure phenomenal when one recognizes the fact that while today he is one of the wealthiest men of Ford county he had a capital of only twelve hundred dollars when he arrived in Piper City and this had been saved from his earnings since the time when he started out in business life empty-handed. He has been generous of his means in support of many valuable public measures. Regarded as a citizen and in his social relations he belongs to that public-spirited, useful and helpful type of men whose ambitions and desires are centered and directed in those channels through which flow the greatest and most permanent good to the greatest number.

HON. J. P. MIDDLECOFF.

Jonathan P. Middlecoff is a citizen to whom Paxton, in large measure, owes her commercial prosperity, material improvement and architectural adornment. The history of Ford county would be very incomplete and unsatisfactory without a personal and somewhat extended mention of him. He finds an appropriate place in the history of those men of business and enter-



J. P. MIDDLECOFF



MRS. J. P. MIDDLECOFF

prise who have established and controlled large affairs and have brought to successful completion important schemes of trade and profit, thus contributing in an eminent degree to the development of the vast resources of the state. One of the prominent characteristics of his successful business career is that his vision has never been bounded by the exigencies of the moment but has covered as well the opportunities and possibilities of the future. This has led him into extensive undertakings bringing him into marked prominence in industrial, commercial and financial circles.

Mr. Middlecoff is a native of Richmond, Indiana, born on the 20th of February, 1838. The father, Daniel Middlecoff, was born in Maryland in 1800 and in the same state, in 1809, occurred the birth of Theresa Newcomer, who in early womanhood became his wife. On removing from Maryland in 1827 they established their home at Richmond, Indiana, where they remained until 1849. In that year they took up their abode in Cincinnati, Ohio, and for many years Daniel Middlecoff was a prominent and successful wholesale grocery merchant there. In 1861 he settled in Patton township, Ford county, Illinois, where he resided until his death in 1866. His widow long survived him, passing away in 1898.

When a lad of eleven years Jonathan P. Middlecoff became a pupil in the public schools of Cincinnati and later continued his education in St. John's College and in the Farmers College of Ohio. In 1857 he came to Illinois and entered business life in this state as a merchant of Ludlow, Champaign county, where he remained until 1862. In that year he removed to a farm in Ford county and was actively identified with agricultural pursuits until 1867, when he became a hardware merchant of Paxton, continuing the business with success for several years. Constantly watchful of opportunities for the extension of his business, in 1881 he became associated with C. Bogardus, P. Whitmer and F. L. Cook in the manufacture of drain tile and brick under the firm name of the Paxton Brick & Tile Company. Mr. Middlecoff was chosen president and general manager and from the beginning the enterprise proved a success. The trade steadily increased, his capable control being manifest in a growing patronage that rendered this a most profitable investment. Mr. Middlecoff continued at the head of the business until 1902.

In the meantime, in 1888, he assisted in organizing the Paxton Canning Company, of which he was also chosen president and general manager. The same spirit of enterprise was brought to bear in its control and thus the success was assured from the start. In all of his business interests Mr. Middlecoff has been watchful of every detail, has been energetic, prompt and notably reliable and in the execution of well defined plans and purposes has met with success. From time to time he has made judicious investments in property and now has extensive real-estate holdings, including valuable farms and much city reality. In 1896 he was the organizer of the hotel company which erected the present magnificent hotel at Paxton, a building which would be a credit to a city of much larger size. He was elected president of the company and

after the completion of the structure the hotel was named the Middlecoff in his honor. It is but one of many evidences of his public-spirited interest in Paxton. Although he spends but four or five months of each year here he loves his home city as a father loves his child and does much to further its interests and promote its progress.

The marriage of J. P. Middlecoff and Miss Mary F. Fox was celebrated in Cincinnati, Ohio, in January, 1864. Mrs. Middlecoff was reared and educated in that city and was a daughter of Richard Fox, the original starch manufacturer. They became the parents of three children but Alice, the eldest, died at the age of sixteen months, Samuel at the age of twenty-two months and Addie in early womanhood, March 9, 1891. Recently Mr. Middlecoff has erected in Paxton a colonial mansion, the finest residence of the city, and also maintains a home in St. Augustine, Florida, where he spends the winter months.

Not alone in business affairs but through other avenues of activity has Mr. Middlecoff contributed to public progress. He was for some years recognized as one of the republican leaders of central Illinois, and was a delegate to the national republican convention held in Philadelphia in 1900. He was first called to office in 1866 as supervisor of Patton township. He served also in the following year and was again elected in 1872, 1877 and 1878. During the last two years he was chairman of the county board and in the administration of public affairs brought to bear the same executive force and keen discrimination that have ever characterized him in his business life. That the public regarded him worthy of higher political honors was indicated by their election of him as their representative in the twenty-eighth general assembly. As a member of the house he served on the committees on public buildings and grounds, on corporations and on county and township organizations. He proved an active worker in the committee room and on all occasions gave earnest consideration to every question which came up for settlement. Four times he served as mayor of Paxton and as its chief executive promoted reform, progress and improvement along various lines, holding high the standard of municipal honor and exercising his official prerogatives in support of those interests and movements which were a matter of civic virtue and civic pride. During his second term as mayor the water-works were put in operation and during his fourth term the city hall was erected. This fine structure and ornament to Paxton owes its existence in no small degree to Mr. Middlecoff, who advocated a building that would be a credit to the city.

In Masonry Mr. Middlecoff has attained high rank. He belongs to Oriental Consistory, S. P. R. S., of Chicago, and to Morocco Temple of the Mystic Shrine in Jacksonville, Florida. Both he and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Paxton and he has been leader of the choir for thirty-five years. His life has been an open scroll inviting the closest scrutiny. His achievements represent the result of honest endeavor along

lines where mature judgment has pointed the way. He possesses a weight of character and native sagacity, a discriminating mind and the fidelity to principles that command the respect of all. There is perhaps no other one citizen who has done for Paxton what Jonathan P. Middlecoff has accomplished for the city.

ROBERT A. McCracken.

During the entire period of his manhood Robert A. McCracken has been connected prominently with business interests in Paxton and Ford county and his name has long been an honored one on commercial paper. While he prepared for and was admitted to the bar, he has largely retired from active practice but his knowledge of the law proves of much value to him in the conduct of his private business interests. He is president of the Kankakee City Electric Railway and has extensive investments, while at the same time he has the care of his father's estate, his mother, Mrs. E. C. McCracken being executrix. The estate embraces forty-six hundred and fifty acres of Illinois land.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. McCracken was born in Lawrence county, November 19, 1854, a son of the Rev. Robert McCracken, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. He was but seven years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Ford county and here the days of his boyhood were passed, his education being acquired in the public schools of Paxton. In 1871 he removed to Hoopeston with his father who was engaged in merchandising there until 1876, when the family returned to Paxton. He then became associated with his father in buying and selling real estate and from that time to the present has been more or less actively associated with the purchase and sale of farm and city property. Some time after his return to Paxton he took up the study of law in the office and under the direction of the law firm of Cook & Moffett. In 1888 he passed the examination which secured his admission to the bar and entered upon the practice of his profession. Although he does not now engage in practice his knowledge of the law is of inestimable value to him in the control of his property interests. In August, 1905, in company with three others, he purchased the Kankakee City Electric Railway and on the election of officers was chosen president, with E. E. Rollins as vice president and E. D. Risser as secretary and treasurer. These offices they still hold and are thus becoming actively associated with the great system of interurban railways, which have been so important a factor in the development of the state. He is widely known as a man of sound business judgment and of unfaltering enterprise, also notably prompt and reliable, having gained an unassailable reputation for business integrity.

On the 8th of October, 1889, Mr. McCracken was married to Miss Luella B. Kemp, a daughter of Nicholas and Catherine S. (Axline) Kemp, who came to Ford county, Illinois, with her parents from Wenona, Marshall county, this

state, in 1875, the family home being established on a farm of three hundred and twenty acres three miles west of Paxton. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McCracken have been born three children: Howard Orr, Ruth A. and Wendell Kemp, the first two being high school students.

Mr. McCracken and his family are active members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Paxton and are interested in all that pertains to the progress and development of the city. His political allegiance is given to the republican party and although not an aspirant for office he is in this regard, as in every other relation of life, a stalwart champion of the principles in which he believes. He is never neglectful of the duties of citizenship nor forgetful of his obligations to his fellowmen. His deep interest in children is indicated by his authorship of a child's story book, which was published in 1901 under the title of "Hidalgo and Home Life at West Lawn," the preface being written by Miss Lida B. McMurray, of the State Normal School of De Kalb. This volume was well received by the press and public, the first edition having already been exhausted. The family home at the corner of West Center and Elm streets is among the finest of Paxton's residences and here Mr. McCracken's many friends know him as a genial, hospitable host. He has a wide acquaintance in Ford county, where almost his entire life has been passed, is popular with all classes and without invidious distinction may be termed one of the county's most honored and representative citizens.

OSCAR HENRY DAMON.

Oscar Henry Damon is a retired merchant of Gibson City, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toil. He was born in Hanover, New Hampshire, May 24, 1835, his parents being Ebenezer and Chloe A. (Lawrence) Damon, the latter a daughter of Joseph Lawrence. The father was born November 1, 1812, and was a builder in Lawrence, Massachusetts, whence he removed to Rutland, La Salle county, Illinois. The family was founded in America by Deacon John Damon, who arrived in Reading, Massachusetts, in 1630 and was a selectman there. He made his home in that place until his death, which occurred in 1708. His descendants are now widely scattered but representatives of the family have always remained residents of New England. Ebenezer Damon, on removing westward, established his home in LaSalle county, where he continued his residence up to the time of his demise in 1870. His widow, long surviving him, died in 1890 at Gibson City.

Oscar H. Damon, one of a family of six children, acquired a common-school education in Lyndon, Vermont, and in Lawrence, Massachusetts. After putting aside his text-books he was employed in a store and factory until twenty years of age, when he started in business on his own account, removing westward to Rutland, La Salle county. He there opened a dry-goods store in connection with his brother and was thus engaged until 1861, when he put aside business



MR. AND MRS. O. H. DAMON

and personal considerations to espouse the cause of the Union in the Civil war. He enlisted in Battery K, Second Illinois Light Artillery, and participated in many battles which led up to the final triumph of the Union army, remaining at the front until mustered out in 1864 because of physical disability. He relates many interesting incidents of military life and is a worthy veteran, whose loyalty to his duty was never questioned on the field of battle.

After being mustered out, Mr. Damon served as clerk of the Freedman's bureau at Natchez, Mississippi, and following his return to the north was postmaster of Rutland, La Salle county. He afterward opened a drug store at Coaticook, in the province of Quebec, Canada, where he remained in business for nine years. He afterward went to Olympia, Washington, where he continued for a year and a half and later went to California and to Chicago. On the 1st of May, 1878, he arrived in Gibson City. Soon afterward he purchased five hundred acres of land, for which he paid thirty dollars per acre and which is today worth one hundred and seventy-five dollars per acre owing to the splendid improvements he has placed upon it and the natural rise in value consequent to the settlement of the state. His property is divided into three farms, comprising five hundred seventeen and a half acres in Dix and Drummer townships, and he also owns a half section of land in Pike county, Illinois, and section and a half in North Dakota. From his property interests he derives an excellent income, which amply supplies him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. He continued actively in his farming operations for a number of years and still gives personal supervision to his invested interests. He owns one of the finest residences in Gibson City, erected in 1906.

On the 19th of May, 1878, Mr. Damon was married to Mrs. Margaret A. Lott, the widow of J. B. Lott, who owned all the land where Gibson City is now located. Both Mr. and Mrs. Damon have an extensive acquaintance in the county and occupy a very prominent position in social circles, being people of many friends. He holds membership in the Presbyterian church, while his wife is a member of the Christian church. Mr. Damon is serving as one of the elders and treasurer of his church and also a teacher in the Sunday school. He was chairman of the building committee at the time of the erection of the new house of worship and has taken a most active and helpful interest in all departments of the church work. He was also secretary of the County Sunday School Association and does all in his power to promote moral training of the young, recognizing the fact that the early teachings are seldom forgotten, but leave an indelible impress upon the young lives. His political allegiance is given the republican party and he is recognized as one of its local leaders. He served as

town clerk for three years, was president of the village board, and has twice served as mayor of the city. His official duties have ever been discharged with promptness and fidelity, winning him high encomiums and the unqualified trust of his fellowmen. He belongs to Lott Post, G. A. R., and manifests the same loyalty to his country in days of peace that he displayed when upon southern battlefields he followed the old flag to victory. His influence is always given on the side of right, progress and improvement and his labors have been an element not only in the material development, but in the political and moral progress of the community.

THOMAS J. McDERMOTT.

Thomas J. McDermott, who owns and operates three hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land on section 16, Mona township, was born in Peoria county, Illinois, October 18, 1858, his parents being James and Mary (Slaven) McDermott, who were both natives of Ireland. They emigrated to America in the early '40s, locating in Peoria county, Illinois, when the city of that name was only a very small river town, and there the father followed farming for many years, being closely connected with the pioneer development of that part of the state. Unto Mr. and Mrs. James McDermott were born eight children, as follows: Mary J., the wife of Peter Burns, of Peoria county; Henry who resides in Cullom, Livingston county, Illinois; James, who makes his home in Chicago; Thomas J., of this review; Carolina, who became the wife of Thomas Foulton and resides in Cullom; Susanna, who is the wife of James Carl, of Peoria county; and Stephen and Matthew, both of whom make their home in Peoria county.

Thomas J. McDermott acquired his education in the common schools and remained with his father on the home farm until he had attained his majority, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. On leaving the parental roof he took up his abode on a rented farm near Piper City and operated the place for one year. On the expiration of that period he came to Mona township, where he again operated a rented farm for two years and then purchased eighty acres of land on section 16, where he now resides. As the years passed he brought the land under a high state of cultivation and added many modern improvements to the farm, having also extended the boundaries of his place until it now comprises three hundred and

twenty acres of fine farming land. He is widely known as one of the representative and enterprising agriculturists of the county and in addition to the work of general farming he makes a specialty of raising full blooded Hereford cattle, both branches of his business returning to him a gratifying annual income.

In 1881 Mr. McDermott was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Mullaly, a daughter of James and Margaret Mullaly, both natives of Ireland, who crossed the Atlantic to America at an early day. They became the parents of ten children, as follows: John; James; William, deceased; Mary Jane, deceased; Frank; Mrs. McDermott; Anna, who makes her home in New Jersey; Charles; Thomas; and Ella. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McDermott have also been born ten children: Thomas E, deceased; Margaret, the wife of Albert Hartquest, of Chatsworth, Illinois; James E., at home; Mary E., deceased; Susanna, Charles E., Carrie M., Jane E., Thomas W., and Orville M.

Both Mr. and Mrs. McDermott are communicants of the Catholic church and in his political views our subject is a democrat. He has never sought or desired office, however, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs, in which he has met with a large measure of prosperity. He has been identified with the agricultural development of this state from his earliest youth, for he aided in the cultivation of his father's farm in Peoria county and for more than a quarter of a century has carried on farming on his own account in Ford county, having seen the district transformed from a wild, uncultivated region into one of the richest agricultural states of the Union. Moreover, the success which has come to him is due entirely to his own well directed labor and enterprise, for he started out in life empty-handed and has steadily worked his way upward until he is now numbered among the substantial citizens of the county.

JOHN F. SCHUMACHER.

John F. Schumacher, well known in financial circles in Ford county as cashier of the Bank of Cabery, his native town, was born on the 4th of January, 1879. His parents were John and Anna (Trush) Schumacher, both natives of Germany. Mrs. Schumacher arrived in America about thirty-five years ago, some years later than her future husband, and they were married in Chicago. Subsequently they took up their abode in Cabery on the Kankakee county side and there the death of Mr. Schumacher occurred on the 15th of August, 1899, when he was fifty-five years of age. The mother still resides

here. In their family were seven children: Elizabeth, now a resident of Chicago; M. W., of Cabery; John F., of this review; P. J.; Mary; Anna; and Frank.

At the usual age John F. Schumacher became a pupil in the public schools, wherein he pursued his studies to the age of seventeen years, after which he attended the Northern Illinois Normal School at Dixon, Illinois, and further qualified for the practical and responsible duties of life as a student in the Gem City Business College, at Quincy, Illinois, from which he was graduated in the fall of 1898. On the 5th of April of the following year he entered the bank as bookkeeper and assistant cashier and made it his purpose to thoroughly acquaint himself with the business and to master every task assigned him. In March, 1907, he was given full charge of the Bank of Cabery and as cashier is managing its interests. His labors have contributed in substantial measure to its success and in its conduct he follows a safe, conservative policy. He is also manager of a grain and implement business for the firm of Porch & Adams, and is regarded as a young man of excellent business ability and executive force, of keen discernment and unfaltering enterprise.

In his political views Mr. Schumacher is a stalwart republican and is prominent locally. He has served as township clerk, as commissioner of highways, as township treasurer and as village treasurer, and his duties have ever been discharged with promptness and fidelity. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church, and fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Columbus at Kankakee, while in Cabery he is clerk of the Modern Woodmen camp. In this part of the county he is well known, having always resided here, and is a young man of many friends.

THOMAS KEWLEY.

Thomas Kewley, who is extensively and successfully identified with the agricultural interests of Ford county, being the owner of three hundred and eighty-two acres of fine farming land in Mona township, was born on the Isle of Man on the 12th of August, 1849, his parents being Thomas and Katherine (McQuade) Kewley. The father emigrated to America in 1854, locating in New York, and three years later his wife and family joined him there. They remained in the Empire state until 1861, which year witnessed their arrival



MR. AND MRS. THOMAS KEWLEY

in Henry county, Illinois, where the father operated a tract of rented land for ten years. On the expiration of that period they came to Mona township, Ford county, purchasing land on section 16. Here the parents remained until called to their final rest, the mother passing away in 1890, while Mr. Kewley survived until the 23d of August, 1902. They were among the early pioneer settlers of this portion of the state, establishing a home on the frontier and aiding in the cultivation and development of hitherto wild land. They had but two children, our subject being now the only survivor of the family.

Thomas Kewley was but eight years of age when he accompanied his mother on her emigration to America, and remained under the parental roof until he had attained his majority, assisting his father in the labors of the home farm during the summer months and attending school in the winter seasons. On reaching man's estate he started out in business life on his own account by renting a tract of land, which he operated successfully and energetically for sixteen years. With the capital he had acquired during this period he then purchased eighty acres on section 18, Mona township, where he has since made his home. As the years have passed he has made many substantial improvements on the place and, owing to the prosperity which has attended his farming interests, has been enabled to purchase more land from time to time until he now owns three hundred and eighty-two acres in Mona township, while he also has three hundred and twenty acres in South Dakota. His landed holdings are thus quite extensive and he is widely recognized as one of the prosperous and influential agriculturists of the county.

In 1874 Mr. Kewley was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary Tredenick, who was born in Grundy county, Illinois, in 1857. Her parents, who were natives of England, went to Canada in 1854, later establishing their home in Grundy county, Illinois, where the father followed farming for a few years. They then came to Ford county, where both the father and mother passed away. They were the parents of four children, namely: John, deceased; Mrs. Kewley; Charles, who resides in Cullom, Illinois; and William, deceased. Unto our subject and his wife have been born six children, as follows: Minnie L., who has passed away; Charles E., at home; Jennie A., who became the wife of Charles Thorn and makes her home in Cullom; Katie M., the wife of A. D. Layman, a farmer of Livingston county; and Frank H. and Bernie N., both at home.

In his political views Mr. Kewley is a republican and is quite prominent in the local ranks of his party. He is now serving as school trustee and also as supervisor of Mona township, having held the latter office for six years.

He has likewise acted as school director for fifteen years, the cause of education ever finding in him a warm and helpful friend. Fraternally he is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 680, and Camp No. 1886, of the Woodmen, both of Cullom, while both he and his wife are members of Rebekah lodge, No. 656, at Cullom. Their religious faith is indicated by their membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and they are widely and favorably known for their many excellent traits of character and upright lives. For twenty-two years Mr. Kewley has been an important factor in the agricultural development of Ford county and his prosperity is well deserved, as in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, unabating energy and industry that never flags. He is public-spirited, giving his cooperation to every movement which tends to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of the community.

JOHN IEHL.

The spirit of self-help is the source of all genuine worth in the individual. It is the man who comes to recognize his own powers and his own limitations and who understands the possibilities that are open in the business world that makes orderly progression along the paths of success. Such a man is John Iehl, now successfully conducting a banking business in Melvin and also deriving a gratifying income from valuable farming property.

He was born in Baldenheim in the province of Alsace, then a part of France but now of Germany. His natal day was January 13, 1839, and he was the second in the family of three children whose parents were John and Barbara (Iehl) Iehl, who though of the same name were not relatives. They, too, were natives of Baldenheim, the father born in May, 1809, and the mother in April of the same year. They continued residents of Germany until 1850, when, hoping to enjoy better business opportunities in the new world, the father brought his family to America and established his home in Deerfield township, Lake county, Illinois, where for some years he carried on a farm, there residing until 1888, when he removed to Northfield township, Cook county, Illinois. The mother died in Deerfield township, Lake county, in April, 1852, at the age of forty-three years and the father long survived, passing away April 27, 1894. Of their children Barbara, the eldest, who was born March 17, 1836, is now the widow of Phillip Laesser and resides in North-

field, Cook county. The younger daughter, Salome, born July 28, 1842, is the widow of David Horenberger and a resident of Deerfield, Lake county.

John Iehl, the only son, remained a resident of his native province to the age of eleven years, when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world. They sailed from Havre to New York and reached Chicago twenty-one days after their embarkation. The voyage across the Atlantic was a short one for a sailing ship. As stated, the family home was established upon a farm in Lake county, Illinois, and there John Iehl remained with his parents until 1860, being trained to the work of the home farm, while as opportunity offered he also continued his education, begun in the schools of his native country, in the public schools near his father's home. When he had reached adult age he started out in life on his own account, working as a farm hand until his labor had brought him sufficient capital to enable him to engage in business for himself. He was employed at farm labor in Marshall county until 1868 and was in the employ of one man for seven years.

In 1868 he removed to Ford county, settling in Peach Orchard township before the railroad was built or the town of Melvin founded. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, constituting the northwest quarter of section 28, and is still the owner of that property, on which he continuously made his home until 1874, when he rented his farm and engaged in the grain business in Melvin in partnership with William Frasius and George T. Arends under the firm style of Frasius, Iehl & Company. They dealt in grain, seeds and coal, conducting a successful business until 1876, when the senior partner sold out. The firm name of Iehl & Company was then adopted and the business was thus carried on until 1890, when they withdrew from the grain trade and established the private banking business that has since been conducted at Melvin, under the name of Iehl & Company. Both partners are active in the management of the bank, which has long been recognized as a substantial moneyed institution, having back of it valuable collateral in the shape of fine farming property. In 1899 they built an attractive brick bank building, which is an important addition to the business houses of Melvin. As Mr. Iehl has prospered in his undertakings he has from time to time invested in land until he is now the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres, all in Ford county. It is very rich and productive and returns to him a gratifying income.

On the 3d of June, 1871, Mr. Iehl was married to Miss Mary Arends, who was born in Groveland, Tazewell county, Illinois, November 5, 1853, and came to Ford county in January, 1870, with her parents, Teis and Teda

(Becker) Arends. She is also a sister of her husband's partner. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Iehl have been born five children. Hannah is the wife of M. D. Townsend, a farmer of Peach Orchard township, living about a mile south of Melvin, and they have three children: Glenn L. Mary and John T. George T., who is employed in the bank in Melvin, married Bertha Shilts and they have three children, Ethel, Margaret and Clara. Clara M. is the wife of F. G. Ruff, of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and has a daughter, Helen. Edwin A. is a student in the State University at Champaign. Walter C. is attending school in Melvin.

In politics Mr. Iehl has been a stalwart republican since casting his first presidential vote for Lincoln in 1864. He has the notable and creditable record of serving as supervisor of Peach Orchard township for twenty-two years, having been a member of the board longer than any other supervisor during the history of the township. He was also village trustee for six years and in discharging his official duties is prompt, energetic and loyal, doing everything in his power to promote the public service. He attends the German Methodist Episcopal church and is a man whom to know is to respect and honor. His life proves conclusively that difficulties may be overcome by determined purpose and that the individual may secure success if he has but the will to dare and to do. His methods have ever been such as will bear close scrutiny and no higher testimonial of his worth as a business man and citizen can be given than is manifest in the genuine respect which his fellow townsmen and all who know him entertain for him.

JOHN H. EMMINGER.

It seems that nature purposes that man shall enjoy a period of rest in the evening of his days. In the morning of his life he is full of energy, hope and courage; at life's noontide his labors are guided by the sound judgment that has come to him through observation and experience and if he persists in the pursuit of an honorable purpose he can win the success that will enable him to spend the evening of life without recourse to further labor. Such has been the record of John H. Emminger, of Gibson City, now a retired tailor deriving his income largely from investments in land. He was born in the southern part of Germany, July 14, 1831, and his father, who was a linen weaver, and his mother both died in that part of the country.

Mr. Emminger continued there until twenty years of age, when he left his native land, sailing on the 14th of March, 1853, for the United States. The voyage was made in one of the old-time sailing vessels and after forty-two days spent on the Atlantic he reached New York city on the 26th of April. On that day the Odd Fellows were having a big celebration and parade and Mr. Emminger thought it the grandest sight he had ever witnessed in all his life. The city in its gala day decorations made a great impression upon him and from that time America has had a stronghold upon his affections and loyalty. In his native country Mr. Emminger had learned and followed the tailor's trade and was again employed in that way in New York city until the fall of 1853, when he made his way westward to Chicago and Milwaukee. Later he took up his abode in La Salle, Illinois, where he served as foreman in a tailor establishment until 1861. On the 9th of June of that year he removed to Davenport, Iowa, where he remained for four and a half years, or through the period of the Civil war, acting as foreman in a tailor shop there. Subsequently he spent two and a half years in Keokuk, Iowa, and in 1867 returned to La Salle, Illinois, where he resided until 1870, when he opened up a shop of his own in Wenona, Illinois, where he remained for four and a half years. He next located at Pontiac, Illinois, where he conducted business on his own account for ten and a half years, and then came to Gibson City where he also conducted a successful tailoring business for some time. He is now retired, however, and depends upon his income from his property to supply him with the necessities and comforts of life. He is the owner of two hundred acres of land in Drummer township and also had one hundred and sixty acres in McLean county, which he gave to his children. In Kansas he has invested in property, having one hundred and sixty acres in Brown county. He also owns a good residence in Gibson City and a store building, which is now rented for a meat market.

In 1854 Mr. Emminger was married to Miss Mary C. Riegs, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1831, a daughter of George and Sophia (Kugler) Riegs, the father, a truck farmer near La Salle, Illinois, where he located in 1854 and where he resided until his death. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Emminger were born four sons and four daughters, of whom two sons and two daughters are now living, and they have twelve grandchildren. Their son Albert lives upon the father's farm two miles southwest of Gibson City.

Mr. Emminger is a member of the Masonic fraternity, joining the lodge at La Salle, Illinois, in 1867, while since 1858 he has been a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge at La Salle. His political allegiance has been given to the republican party since he became a naturalized American citizen. There is no

native son of the United States more loyal to her welfare and her interests, for he has enjoyed her protection and has found here the opportunities for the attainment of success. When he arrived in America he had but twenty-five cents, but gradually he has worked his way upward and his diligence and perseverance have brought him a goodly measure of prosperity and at the same time the methods which he has followed in the business world have made his an honored name.

JOHN McKINNEY.

John McKinney, senior partner of the John McKinney & Son Company, has been engaged in the lumber trade in Piper City for more than a half century and has carried on business on his own account since 1859. In his undertakings he has prospered by reason of his intelligent and well directed effort, his unremitting industry and perseverance, being now one of the substantial residents of Ford county. He was born near Belfast in Cookstown, Ireland, in 1833, his parents being Archibald and Elizabeth (McKinney) McKinney, who, though of the same name, were not relatives. With their family they came to America in 1847 and resided in Philadelphia until 1857, when they came to Ford county. There the father carried on agricultural pursuits until 1888, when with his wife he removed to Piper City, where they lived until called to their final rest. The father reached the advanced age of ninety-three years, while the mother was eighty-two years of age at the time of her death and during the last fifteen years of her life was blind. In their family were five children, of whom John is the eldest. Rachel is the widow of Captain Perry of Philadelphia, and has one son, Joseph. Mrs. Margaret McLaughlin, a widow, is living in Piper City with her sister, Mrs. Perry. William died in 1880, and Joseph in 1883.

John McKinney spent the first twelve years of his life in the land of his nativity and then crossed the Atlantic to Philadelphia with his mother, three brothers and two sisters. In this land they joined the father, who had preceded them to the new world. The voyage was made in 1847 as passengers on a sailing ship which was six weeks in covering the distance between the European and the American harbors. On the trip over a brother and sister died, the sister being buried at sea and the brother on Staten Island. The family lost all their baggage after reaching New York. John McKinney remained in Philadelphia for about ten years and for two or three years spent



JOHN McKINNEY

a part of the time in school. During the period of his residence in Philadelphia he served a five years' apprenticeship to the carpenter's trade, becoming an expert workman during that period. In 1856 he made his way westward to Chicago with his father and later both came to Ford county and purchased a tract of land three miles south and a half mile west of what is now Piper City. For three years after arriving in Ford county John McKinney worked at his trade in Chicago and on the road for the Illinois Central Railroad Company. He then began to build houses for the first settlers at Piper City and this vicinity, for it was during the period of pioneer development here and it was necessary that the early inhabitants should build homes for themselves. Mr. McKinney was thus employed at contracting and building until 1866, when he took the management of a lumberyard for the firm of Piper & Montelius. He continued in business in that way until the fall of 1869, when he bought out his employers and has since continued in the lumber trade without intermission. This is the only lumberyard in the city and the business has grown to extensive and profitable proportions. In 1872 he further extended the scope of his trade by establishing a hardware department, while later he opened a furniture and undertaking establishment, thus his business growing in volume and importance until it has long since been considered one of the leading commercial industries of the village. In 1870 Mr. McKinney admitted his brother William to a partnership under the firm style of John McKinney & Brother, a relation that was maintained until the death of the junior partner in 1880. Mr. McKinney was afterward alone in business for thirteen years, when he admitted his son, W. O. McKinney, under the firm name of John McKinney & Son. Later they organized a stock company, holding all of the stock themselves with the exception of about three thousand dollars, to which extent H. G. Flessner is interested. The business is now carried on under the firm style of the John McKinney & Son Company. The son and Mr. Flessner have active management of the business, while the father gives his attention largely to the management of his real-estate interests. They also have a branch store and lumberyard at La Hogue, where they have operated for seven or eight years.

In 1865 Mr. McKinney was married to Miss Fredericka Walrich, who was born in Germany in 1846 and came to Illinois with her parents about 1857. She is a daughter of Otto and Margaret (Hempken) Walrich and by her marriage has become the mother of six children: Elizabeth, the wife of Rev. A. S. Hoskins, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church in Chicago for the past nine years, now located at the Irving Park church; William O., who is his

father's partner in business; Margaret W., who died at the age of nine years; Kate Montelius, the wife of J. A. Johnston, of Charleston, South Carolina; Jeane M., who died in 1896 at the age of twenty-two years; and Emily F., the wife of John A. Montelius, Jr., of Piper City. Jeane M. McKinney was in the fifth year of the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, at the time of her death, pursuing a literary course.

In his political views Mr. McKinney is a republican where national questions and issues are involved but at local elections does not consider himself bound by party ties. In early days he served as collector of his township and was also school officer. He is a charter member of the Presbyterian church of Piper City and one of its trustees. His interest in community affairs is deep and sincere and his cooperation can always be counted upon to further any progressive public movement. He has made a splendid record as a business man, for he started out in life empty-handed, realizing, however, that labor is the basis of all honorable success. He has worked diligently and persistently and his close application and stalwart purpose find tangible evidence in the substantial success which he is now enjoying and which has made him one of the leading business men of Ford county for many years.

CHARLES F. HELMAN.

Charles F. Helman, who is now serving for the eighth year as county surveyor of Ford county, and is a resident of Paxton, was born in the city of Jonkoping, Sweden, November 21, 1862. He acquired his education in the government schools of his native country and was graduated at Stockholm on the completion of a course in technology. He afterwards engaged in surveying for the government, spending four years in that way in the extreme north of Lapland. This is the district of the midnight sun, when during six months of the year one can see to read for only about an hour per day. During several months the night is very short and in May, June and the greater part of July the sun is to be seen almost any time in the twenty-four hours. During two years Mr. Helman was in the employ of private corporations in canal and drainage work. Thinking to find a still more profitable field of labor in the new world, he came to America in 1893 and settled at Rantoul in Champagne county, where he remained for two years. In 1895 he came to Ford county and engaged in various occupations. In 1900 he was elected county

surveyor, since which time he has been reelected and is now serving for the eighth year. His excellent university training and his broad, practical experience well qualify him for the able discharge of the duties of this position, and he has made a most creditable record in office. Since 1900 he has been appointed continuously as city surveyor of Paxton under both democratic and republican administrations.

On the 2d of September, 1896, Mr. Helman was married in Paxton, to Miss Matilda Johnson, a daughter of August and Mary J., who were natives of Sweden and came to America in 1867. Mr. and Mrs. Helman now have four children, Edna, Hertha, Carl and Lillian. The parents are members of the Swedish Lutheran church and are highly esteemed socially, the hospitality of the best homes being freely accorded them. Mr. Helman has always voted with the republican party and takes an active interest in politics, strongly desiring the adoption of the principles which he believes are most conducive to good government. As a citizen he is progressive and loyal and withholds his aid and cooperation from no movement calculated to benefit the community and in fact his labors have been effective in increasing its wealth and standing among the counties of his adopted state. He has had no occasion to regret his determination to seek a home in America, for here he has not only found creditable success in professional lines but has also gained a good home and the high regard of many friends.

JOHN WEAKMAN.

John Weakman is the owner of a well improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 15, Pella township. He has brought this property under a high state of cultivation and makes a specialty of raising cattle, horses and hogs. He was born in Germany in July, 1847, his parents being Louis and Ellen Weakman, who in 1848 crossed the Atlantic to the new world, first settling in St. Louis, Missouri. Later they removed to Menard county, Illinois, where the father followed farming until his death. In their family were six children, of whom four are yet living: Molly, the wife of Joe Whipple, of Oklahoma; Tina, the wife of August Onken, of Gibson City; Emma, who became the wife of George McNabana and also makes her home in Gibson City; and John, of this review.

During the days of his boyhood and youth John Weakman aided his father in the work of the home farm and in the common schools acquired his education. On attaining his majority he rented land and thus carried on farming on his own account for fifteen years, during which time he saved his earnings until his capital was sufficient to enable him to purchase a farm of his own. He then invested in three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 15, Pella township, and has since given his time and energies to the further development and improvement of this place. The fields are well tilled and bring forth rich crops and he is also engaged in raising cattle, horses and hogs. His farm work is carefully conducted and the systematic management of his business makes him one of the successful agriculturists of the community.

Mr. Weakman has been married twice. He first wedded Miss Laura Follick, who was born in McLean county, Illinois, and they became the parents of three children: Benjamin, living near Gibson City; Hattie, the wife of Ed Duman of this county; and Marion, who is with his grandfather. For his second wife Mr. Weakman chose Miss Gusta Cales, who was born in Virginia. The children of this marriage are nine in number: Myrtle, the wife of Taylor Henry, of Illinois; James; Frank, Bernie, deceased; Pearl; John; Ruth; Fred; and Howard.

In his political views Mr. Weakman is a stalwart republican and for thirty years has served as school director, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. Otherwise he has never sought nor held public office, yet in matters of citizenship is progressive and gives loyal support to many measures for the public good. He is justly regarded as one of the leading farmers of Pella township and among those with whom he has come in contact he has gained many friends. The success that he has achieved has come to him as the merited reward of his own labor, as he has ever placed his dependence upon the substantial qualities of diligence and thrift.

JAMES McBRIDE.

Although James McBride had a cash capital of but eight hundred and fifty dollars when he arrived in Illinois, he is today one of the largest taxpayers in Brenton township and his prosperous career should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, showing what may be accomplished

through business enterprise, unflinching perseverance and strong determination for upon those qualities he has builded his success.

A native of Ireland, Mr. McBride was born January 12, 1842, his parents being Robert and Ruth (Kirker) McBride. They came to America in 1844 and first located in Belmont county, Ohio, upon a farm. The father died in 1861 and the mother in 1858. In their family were seven children, of whom five are now living, as follows: Gilbert K., who resides in this county; John B., living in Paw Paw, Illinois; R. A., whose home is in La Salle county, this state; N. A., of New York city; and James, of this review.

James McBride was but two years of age when brought by his parents to America and upon the home farm in Ohio he was reared, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He enlisted for service in the Civil war in 1862, when a young man of twenty years, and served for three years in defense of the Union, participating in all of the experiences of camp life. He marched with Sherman to the sea and participated in many important battles. After the war he returned to Ohio and in the fall of 1865 came to LaSalle county, Illinois, where he lived for three years, afterward removing to Livingston county, this state. Having carefully saved his earnings in the meantime, he now made an investment in property, purchasing eighty acres, which he cultivated and improved, bringing his farm into a high state of fertility.

In 1869 Mr. McBride was married to Miss Clarilda Strank, who was born in Ohio and was one of two children. Following their marriage they began their domestic life upon their farm in Livingston county, where they remained for ten years. Mr. McBride then traded his property for two hundred and forty acres of land on section 31, Brenton township, Ford county, whereon he resided until 1892. From time to time he added more land and when he retired and removed to Piper City he was the owner of eight hundred and ninety acres, all in the panhandle of the county. Since this he has sold three hundred and twenty acres and he still owns five hundred and seventy acres. He has always made a specialty of buying, raising, feeding and selling stock, and his business transactions of this character have returned him a good profit. The farming interests are valuable and bring to him an excellent financial return annually. In all of his business investments he has shown good judgment and is today a prosperous citizen as the result of well directed industry.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. McBride was blessed with four children: Celestia May, now the wife of H. M. Hawthorne, living on a farm in this county;

Sarah A., who is the widow of William Davis and is now acting as her father's housekeeper; and Jesse W. and Orville F., both deceased. Mrs. Davis has one son, Henry James Davis, who is now attending the Piper City high school. Mrs. McBride died in 1890, leaving her husband and three children to mourn her death, while many friends also deplored her loss for she displayed many sterling traits of character that endeared her to those with whom she came in contact. In September, 1894, Mr. McBride married Elizabeth Woods, a native of Belmont county, Ohio.

Mr. McBride was a democrat until 1896, when he voted for William McKinley, since which time he has deposited his ballot in support of republican principles. He has held several township offices and has served as school director for twenty years, the cause of education finding in him a stalwart champion. He belongs to the Masonic fraternity, holding membership in the lodge at Piper City, and to St. Paul Commandery, K. T., at Fairbury, Illinois. He is in hearty sympathy with the principles and tenets of the craft, which is based upon mutual kindness and brotherly love. He attends and supports the Presbyterian church and is interested in all that pertains to the welfare and upbuilding of the town and county. He is now president of the Piper City Fair and Driving Association and is one of the best known residents of Ford county, having made a creditable record as a business man and citizen. He has prospered, not because of any assistance which he received at the outset of his career or from any influence that has been exerted in his behalf, but because he has labored diligently and untiringly, recognizing the fact that earnest effort is the basis of all business advancement.

A. L. CHERRY.

A. L. Cherry is now living a retired life on his farm of one hundred and sixty acres, located on section 9, Patton township. He is a native of the Buckeye state, his birth having occurred in Greene county, on the 13th of December, 1832. His parents, James and Elizabeth (Greenwood) Cherry, were natives of Virginia and at an early day took up their abode in Ohio, where the father purchased land and there reared his family of eleven children, of whom only two now survive, the brother of our subject being David, a resident of Ohio.



MR. AND MRS. A. L. CHERRY

A. L. Cherry acquired his education in the schools of his native state and remained under the parental roof until he had reached the age of twenty years. He then learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for seven years. Believing, however, that he would more readily acquire a competence in other pursuits in the west, he then made his way to Moultrie county, Illinois, where he operated a tract of land which he rented, for two years, and he also spent three years in Washington, Iowa. In 1862 he took up his abode in Ford county, purchasing a farm of eighty acres, situated on section 9, Patton township, to which he later added an additional eighty-acre tract, so that his place now embraces one hundred and sixty acres. He has erected all of the buildings which are here seen today and added to the productiveness of his fields by the liberal use of tiling, so that his farm is now in a high state of cultivation. For many years he was actively identified with the work of the farm but owing to his well directed labors and careful management he acquired a competence that now enables him to spend the evening of his life in honorable retirement.

Mr. Cherry has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Martha Davis, by whom he had four children but two of the number are now deceased, the surviving daughters being: Laura, who resides in Paxton; and Etta, the widow of Samuel Strong, a resident of Ford county. The wife and mother passed away in 1870, and three years later Mr. Cherry was married again, his second union being with Margaret Archer, who was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, in 1835. She graduated from the high school in Washington, Pennsylvania, and for eight years prior to her marriage was successfully engaged in teaching. The parents of Mrs. Cherry were natives of Virginia and of Pennsylvania respectively, and she is one of a family of thirteen children, of whom only three survive, her sisters being: Sarah, the wife of Charles Ross, of Crawford county, Illinois; and Charlotte, the widow of Jonathan Raney, of Ohio.

Mr. Cherry has always given his support to the republican party and aside from serving as school director for several years has filled no public office, his time and attention during his active business career having been fully occupied with his private business affairs. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the United Presbyterian church at Paxton. He has lived in Ford county for more than four decades and during that time has witnessed many changes as pioneer conditions have given way to more modern methods in various lines. His acquaintance is wide and no man of this section of the state enjoys in larger degree the esteem and high regard of his neighbors and

friends. He has now reached the advanced age of seventy-five years and his persistent labor in former years now enables him to enjoy in retirement the accumulations of a profitable, successful and honorable career, while in the companionship of his estimable wife he takes great delight.

A. W. BARROW.

A. W. Barrow, a farmer and one of the early citizens of Ford county, now living in Gibson City, has by well directed labor gained enviable success. As he has prospered judicious investments have been made in property until he is now the owner of several good farms in Ford county. Although he is now practically living retired, he yet buys and sells stock and for a time conducted a grain business at Elliott, while he makes his home in Gibson City.

Mr. Barrow is the son of Frederick and Mary (Smith) Barrow, the former a native of Frederick county, Virginia, who devoted his life to agricultural pursuits and school teaching. A. W. Barrow was born near Winchester, Virginia, and there began his education, but when a young boy he accompanied his parents on their removal to Bloomington, Illinois, in 1865. His father purchased land east of Gibson City and the son attended the Scotland school on the prairie. When not busy with his text-books he worked on his father's farm, comprising four hundred acres of rich farming land.

After attaining his majority A. W. Barrow was united in marriage to Miss Florence Richardson, a daughter of John Richardson, a grain dealer of Elliott, who retired in 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Barrow now have one son and one daughter. The parents are members of the First Methodist church at Gibson City. For a considerable period Mr. Barrow gave his undivided time and attention to general agricultural pursuits and was very successful. He became the owner of several good farms devoting them to the cultivation of the cereals best adapted to soil and climate. He also dealt in live stock and although he is now practically retired, he still buys and sells stock and derives from this business a good income. He is also a grain dealer at Elliott but he rents the greater part of his land, the remainder being devoted to corn and oats and to pasturage. He has a fine home in Gibson City and the family are prominent in social life here.

In his political views Mr. Barrow is a democrat, in thorough sympathy with the principles of the party, but he has never sought nor desired office,

preferring to give his undivided attention to his business affairs. Thus he gained the prosperity which he now enjoys and which enables him largely to live retired. In manner he is genial and jovial and his many good traits of character have gained him the confidence, good will and friendship of those with whom he has been associated.

SAMUEL CLARK.

Samuel Clark, who was a well known resident of Ford county, his home being in Brenton township, belonged to that class of representative American citizens who, though of foreign birth, are always loyal to the interests of their adopted land and in their home localities contribute in large measure to substantial development and improvement. Moreover, Mr. Clark was one who owed his success entirely to his well directed labors, for he started out in life empty-handed.

He was born near Londonderry, Ireland, May 20, 1825, and when a small boy crossed the Atlantic to Canada with his parents, John and Martha (Wells) Clark, both of whom died in Ohio. In their family were six sons and three daughters. The family remained in Canada for only about two years and then went to Washington county, Pennsylvania, whence they afterward removed to Guernsey county, Ohio. Samuel Clark was a youth in his teens at that time and he remained upon the home farm with his parents up to the time of his marriage, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He gained practical knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops and was thus well qualified to engage in farming on his own account when he married and established a home of his own.

He continued a resident of Guernsey county, Ohio, until his removal to Chenoa, Livingston county, Illinois, where he resided for about a quarter of a century. On the expiration of that period he took up his abode upon a farm on section 22, Brenton township, which was his place of abode for seventeen years or until his death, which occurred on the 16th of January, 1905, when he had reached the ripe old age of eighty years. Throughout his entire life he gave his time and energies to general agricultural pursuits and owned a farm in Ohio and in Livingston county as well as his home property in Brenton township. In 1890 he purchased the place upon which his widow yet

resides, securing one hundred and sixty acres on section 22 and also another tract of eighty acres. His care and diligence brought his fields under a high state of cultivation and he annually gathered good harvests. Year after year he prospered, so that he was enabled to leave his family in comfortable financial circumstances.

Mr. Clark was married in 1853 to Miss Jane Morrow, who was born December 12, 1828, in Guernsey county, Ohio, a daughter of William and Martha (Atchison) Morrow, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Westmoreland county and the latter in Washington county. They entered land in Guernsey county, Ohio, and there developed a new farm. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Clark were born eight children: David, who is now operating the home farm; Martha, the wife of Spencer McCreight, of Aledo, Illinois; Malinda, the wife of W. J. Hester, of Chenoa, this state; John A., whose home is in Stanton, Nebraska; William M., a resident of Rantoul, Illinois; Anna Jane, at home; Mathew, also of Rantoul; and Harriett, the wife of Thomas Simpson, of Iowa.

In his political views Mr. Clark was a democrat but manifested only a citizen's interest in the political questions, never seeking nor desiring office. He held membership in the United Presbyterian church and his life was an honorable and upright one, gaining for him the respect and good will of those with whom he was associated. He reached the eightieth milestone on life's journey and his record was characterized by all that is commendable in man's relations with his fellowmen. He provided well for his family and lived a life of honesty as well as industry, so that he left to his children a good name. Mrs. Clark still survives her husband and is now living on the old home farm on section 22, Brenton township. She is widely known in this part of the county, where she has many friends.

ALBERT BUCHHOLZ.

Albert Buchholz is the village president of Melvin and a citizen whose devotion to the general good is above question. He is well known here and the public regard in which he is held results from a long acquaintance with him and familiarity with the creditable principles which have governed his life in its various relations. He was formerly extensively engaged in the grain



MR. AND MRS. ALBERT RITCHHOLZ

trade, owning a large elevator at Melvin, and his success enables him to now enjoy well earned rest from further labor.

Illinois may be proud to number such a man among her native sons. His birth occurred near Magnolia, Marshall county, March 3, 1860, his parents being August and Caroline (Funte) Buchholz, the former born in Berlin, Germany, August 14, 1821, and the latter in Westphalia in November, 1834. They came to the United States about 1849 and were married in Chicago. The father worked first on the construction of the Illinois Central Railroad and afterward followed shoemaking in Magnolia, having learned that trade in the old country. During the remainder of his active life he was identified with farming interests and he is still the owner of seven hundred and twenty acres of rich and valuable land around the town. He also owns several sections of land in Iowa and Minnesota, which he gave to his children. He has been very prosperous and this is due entirely to his unremitting diligence and labor intelligently applied. As the years have passed he has made the most of his opportunities and certainly deserves great credit for what he has accomplished. He now resides at Oakland, California, with his oldest son, Charles, having there made his home for three years. His wife died upon a farm south of Melvin, August 11, 1890. Their eldest child, Charles Buchholz, is a graduate of the Des Moines School of Osteopathy, as is his wife, and both are practicing in Oakland. Albert is the second of the family. William, of Melvin, is interested with his brother Frank in a cotton plantation of about eighteen hundred acres in Mississippi. Amundus follows general merchandising in Melvin. Frank has resided upon the home farm of three hundred and twenty acres in Peach Orchard township since the father removed to California and, as stated, is a partner of his brother William in their cotton interests in the south. Emma is with her father at Oakland, California. Laura is a teacher of physical culture in Boston, Massachusetts. Mabel is the wife of George T. Hersch, a general merchant of Melvin.

Albert Buchholz spent the first eight years of his life in his native county and in December, 1868, came with his parents to Ford county, the family home being established on a farm adjoining the village of Melvin. He continued with his parents up to the time of his marriage and acquired his education in the public schools. During the periods of vacation he worked in the fields and thus gained practical knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. When he attained his majority he began farming near the town and for nine years continued to cultivate land belonging to his father. In November, 1890, he entered the grain trade, in which he con-

tinued for seventeen years or until July, 1907, when he sold out. He not only dealt in grain but also in seeds, coal and building materials and built up a very extensive business. He wrought along modern lines of business activity, made good use of his opportunities and as the years passed became recognized as one of the foremost representatives of the grain trade in Ford county. He built in Melvin an elevator with a capacity of eighty thousand bushels and later sold that and bought another elevator in Melvin with a capacity of ninety thousand bushels. At first he was associated with his brother in the ownership of the latter but at the end of three years he purchased his brother's interest and continued the business alone for two years or until he sold out. The annual trade reached a very extensive figure and throughout this part of the state the name of Buchholz is recognized as a synonym for commercial integrity and honor.

On the 1st of April, 1885, occurred the marriage of Albert Buchholz and Miss Elizabeth Schueneman, who was born near Magnolia, Illinois, December 11, 1860, and when five years of age went to Randolph county, Missouri, with her parents, August and Dorothy Eliza (Spellmeyer) Schueneman, there residing until her marriage. Both her father and mother were natives of Westphalia, Germany, the former born January 16, 1834, and the latter December 5, 1837. They were married at the home of Mr. and Mrs. August Buchholz in Magnolia, and the father died in Missouri, March 3, 1899, while the mother is still living upon the old homestead in that state. Throughout his life he followed the occupation of farming and thus provided for his family. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Schueneman were born eight children: Mrs. Buchholz; Kate, the wife of John Legendre, of Salisbury, Missouri; Emma, the wife of Louis Penn, of Los Angeles, California; John of Moberly, Missouri; Ida, the wife of John Thomas, a farmer of Randolph county, Missouri; Charles, a mason of Melvin; Henry, who is living on the old homestead in Randolph county; and Dora, the wife of Rev. George Turner, a Methodist Episcopal preacher of Day, Missouri. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Buchholz have been born six children: Rosecoe C., now a student in the Champaign University; Arthur L., who is attending the National School of Telegraphy at Danville, Illinois; Ada Lorana, a student in the Woman's College at Jacksonville, Illinois; Ida Beryl, also attending that school; and Ruth and Ralph, twins, who are students in the schools of Melvin.

Mr. Buchholz is a stalwart republican and has been called to several public offices. He has been school director for three or four terms and is now president of the village of Melvin. He has likewise been assessor of the

township for three or four terms and is serving on the school board in connection with his duties as assessor and village president. No trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed in the slightest degree. On the contrary he is most loyal to the interests of town and county and his labors have been a far-reaching and effective force in promoting general progress. Socially he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and with the Modern Woodmen of America. He belongs to one of the old and representative families of this part of the state and has done much to sustain the reputation which has always been associated with the name of Buchholz. In the community where he lives he stands as a man among men, unostentatious and unassuming and yet respected by all for his genuine worth.

HARM HENRICHS.

Harm Henrichs is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres which has doubled in price since it came into his possession, owing largely to the improvement he has placed upon it and his enterprising efforts in its cultivation. He was born in Hanover, Germany, August 6, 1844, his parents being Oldig and Elsie (Siebelts) Henrichs. The father was a farmer in Germany and in the family there were three sons: Malchert, who is now cultivating the old home farm; Harm, of this review; and Detert, also of Hanover.

Harm Henrichs acquired his education in the common schools of his native country, where he remained until thirty-two years of age. He came to America in the spring of 1886, settling first in Paxton, Illinois, and for one year he worked on the farm of his brother-in-law. In 1887 he removed to Ford township, where he rented land from H. Ashley, cultivating this from 1878 until 1901. In 1900 he purchased his present property, comprising one hundred and sixty acres in Sullivant township. Some improvements had been made upon it but he has further carried forward the work of development and improvement until the farm for which he paid seventy-five dollars per acre is today worth twice that amount. Everything about his place is indicative of his careful supervision and practical methods. He has studied the conditions of the soil and the demands of plant life in the matter of food and through the rotation of crops he keeps the soil in excellent condition. His

life has been one of untiring industry and his perseverance has resulted in his success.

Mr. Henrichs was married in Germany in 1883 to Miss Annie Henrichs, who though of the same name was not a relative. Her parents were Professor Johann and Annie (Cramer) Henrichs. The father came first to America, landing in the fall of 1886, and in October of the same year Mrs. Annie Henrichs also came. Their family numbered five children: Elizabeth, the wife of C. Brethorst, of Peoria, Illinois; Henry, who resides in Sullivant township; Martha, the wife of P. Brethorst; John, who resides in Chariton county, Missouri; and Annie, now Mrs. Henrichs. Professor Henrichs died in 1899 and his wife passed away forty-eight hours before. Both died in Germany. The father of our subject, however, still survives, at the venerable age of eighty-eight years but the mother passed away in 1902, at the age of sixty-nine. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Harm Henrichs have been born nine children, namely: Otto, who is employed in the Sibley Bank; Ella, the wife of William Brucker, a resident of Sullivant township; Elizabeth; Margaret; John; Vena; Herman; Mildred; and Arnold.

The parents are members of the German Lutheran church and are loyal to its teachings and their professions. The record which Mr. Henrichs has made in the business world is a creditable one, for he came to America empty-handed, his substantial qualities of energy and enterprise, however, constituting an excellent foundation upon which to build success and as time has passed he has so directed his labors that he is now the owner of an excellent farm returning him a good yearly income.

J. H. SNELLING.

The Prairie Grove Stock Farm, comprising three hundred and twenty acres, situated on section 11, Wall township, is a fitting monument to the life of thrift and energy of the proprietor, J. H. Snelling. He is here engaged in farming and stock-raising, having for the past twelve years made a specialty of the breeding and raising of shorthorn cattle. Mr. Snelling is a native son of Illinois, his birth having occurred in La Salle county, on the 2d of March, 1846, a son of John and Rebecca (Shaver) Snelling, the former a native of West Virginia, while the birth of the latter occurred in Ohio. They became pioneer settlers of La Salle county, the year of their arrival

there being 1832, and from that time until his death, which occurred in the year 1888, the father was closely identified with the agricultural interests of that section of the state. The mother, however, is still living and yet makes her home on the farm in La Salle county. Although she has reached the very advanced age of eighty-six years, she is still active and performs the major portion of her household duties. Their family numbered seven children, as follows: Nancy, the wife of Morris Weaver, of Ford county; Elizabeth and Olive, both of whom are now deceased; J. H., of this review; David, who resides in La Salle county; and George R. of Coffeyville, Kansas; and Annis, with the mother in La Salle county.

J. H. Snelling was reared to agricultural pursuits, assisting his father in the operation of the home farm during the summer seasons, while in the winter months he pursued his education in the common schools. He later went to Chicago, Illinois, where he attended a business college, from which he was graduated. Following his graduation he returned home and for two years assisted his father in the operation of the home place. He then accepted the principalship of a business college at Galesburg, Illinois, which position he filled for two years, but on account of failing health, occasioned by indoor life, he was compelled to resume farming operations, and again returned to Ford county, renting the homestead property for four years. On the expiration of that period he purchased the farm which is now his home, this place comprising three hundred and twenty acres, situated on section 11, Wall township, which is known as the Prairie Grove Stock Farm. He has improved the property with excellent farm buildings for the shelter of grain and stock and has a commodious and modern country residence, so that the place in its neat and attractive appearance constitutes one of the valuable farm properties of this section of Ford county. He is here engaged in raising various cereals best adapted to the soil and climate, while in his pastures are seen high grades of stock. He makes a specialty of breeding and raising shorthorn cattle and this branch of his business is proving a gratifying source of income to him.

Mr. Snelling was united in marriage to Miss Frances E. Spradling, the ceremony being performed on the 15th of September, 1872. She was born in La Salle county in 1851, and is one of a family of ten children. Her parents are both now deceased, the mother having lived to the advanced age of ninety years. The two sisters of Mrs. Snelling now living are: Rachel, the wife of George Debolt, a resident of La Salle county; and Elizabeth, the wife of Eugene Poller, who makes her home in Plano, Illinois.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Snelling has been blessed with three sons and one daughter: Herman, who is engaged in the implement business at Paxton, Illinois; William Roy, at home; Blanch E., who is with her parents; and John F., who is still under the parental roof. Mr. Snelling gives his political support to the men and measures of the democratic party and at one time served as supervisor of Wall township, while for fourteen years he acted as school treasurer. Although public-spirited and willing to aid in any movement calculated to benefit his home locality, he prefers to leave office-holding to others, his farming and stock-raising interests claiming his time and attention. He finds his greatest social enjoyment at his own fireside, where his family and intimate friends know him to be a delightful companion. He has worked earnestly and persistently in the acquirement of success and today he feels amply repaid for the effort he has made in life, for the Prairie Grove Stock Farm is looked upon as one of the valuable properties of Ford county.

ALBERT GILMORE.

Among those who are classed with the prominent and representative men of Ford county mention should be made of Albert Gilmore, now a retired farmer living in Gibson City. Coming to Illinois during the pioneer epoch in the history of this county, he purchased wild, unbroken prairie land at a low figure and has profited by its rise in value until he is one of the wealthy men of this part of the state, having very extensive landed possessions, for he has placed his capital in the safest of all investments—real estate. He was born in Harrison county, Ohio, near Cadiz, on the 26th of January, 1841, and is a son of Nathaniel and Mary (Craig) Gilmore. His grandfathers in both the paternal and maternal lines came from Ireland. His paternal grandfather, Samuel Gilmore, was born in County Cavan, Ireland, and on coming to America located in Pennsylvania. He married Miss Elizabeth Buchanan, a native of that state, and they were among the early settlers of Harrison county, Ohio, where they located in 1803, there residing until called from this life. They made their way westward when there was but little travel across the mountains into Ohio and more remote districts known as the Northwest Territory, and they aided in reclaiming that region from the rule of the savages and converting it into a land of civilization. Samuel Gilmore was a soldier of the war of 1812 and the hard service and exposure of army life so under-



ALBERT GILMORE

mined his health that he died September 6, 1814, only four days after his return from the war. In his family were seven children, six of whom reached adult age, but none are now living.

Nathanial Gilmore, the father, spent his boyhood and youth in Harrison county, Ohio, and in 1827 gained a companion and helpmate for life's journey by his marriage to Mary Craig, the daughter of John Craig. Twenty years later they removed to Belmont county, Ohio, where Nathaniel Gilmore engaged in farming and stock-raising for five years. He then took up his residence near LeRoy in McLean county, Illinois, in 1852, but was not long permitted to enjoy his new home, as he died November 5, 1855, his grave being made in the Gilmore cemetery on the old homestead, where a monument marks his last resting place. His wife long survived him and ever remained true to his memory. Her death occurred December 21, 1884. In politics Mr. Gilmore was a democrat, progressive in citizenship and successful in business, accumulating a handsome estate. His family numbered twelve children: Samuel and Jane E., both of whom are now deceased; John, who was born in 1832 and is a retired farmer of Webster City, Iowa, deriving a substantial income from three good farms; Rachel, who has also passed away; Craig, one of the wealthy agriculturists and extensive landowners of Ford county, living in Drummer township three miles north of Gibson City; Sarah, deceased; Albert, of this review; William, living in Eldorado, Kansas; Mary A. and Johnson, both deceased; one who died in infancy; and Ephraim, a resident of Lee, Indiana, who is engaged in the ditching business. He owns twenty-eight hundred acres of swamp land, which he is now draining, and the ditch when completed will be fourteen miles long. It will reclaim a district that will be rich and productive soil and can be made very valuable.

Albert Gilmore largely acquired his education in the district schools and also spent two terms as a student in the Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Illinois, and in 1863 engaged in teaching school. Through the periods of vacation he was trained to the work of the homestead and after teaching engaged in farming at home. Subsequent to the father's death the children conducted the farm for about fifteen years, on the expiration of which period three brothers, William, John and Albert Gilmore, came to Ford county and in 1864 purchased sixteen hundred acres of wild land. The unsettled and unimproved condition of this section of the state made it possible for them to purchase the property at from four dollars and twenty-five cents to eight dollars per acre. With characteristic energy they began its development and cultivation but Albert Gilmore did not make Ford county his home until

1870, when he took up his abode within its borders. About 1866 the brothers purchased six hundred acres in Champaign county, four hundred acres of which was broken. The four brothers worked together, carrying on their business interests thus until 1870, when the land was divided, Albert Gilmore's share being five hundred and twenty acres. As he has recognized opportunity for judicious and profitable investment he has since added to his property from time to time until he is one of the most extensive landholders in this part of the state, his possessions aggregating two thousand acres in Ford and McLean counties, about eighteen hundred and thirty acres being in Ford county. He also owns twenty-two hundred and forty acres in Kansas, one thousand four hundred and sixty-seven acres in Missouri near Quincy, three hundred and twenty acres in Minnesota, three thousand acres in Canada and other property. He has always carried on farming and stock-raising, keeping only high grade stock, and the development of his fields and his livestock interests have both proved sources of profit.

On the 18th of February, 1880, Mr. Gilmore was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Boundy, who was born near Peoria, Illinois, June 19, 1858, and is a daughter of William and Elizabeth (Hill) Boundy, who were of English descent. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore have been born six children: Samuel, who attended school in Indianapolis, Indiana, and lives upon his father's farm northwest of Gibson City; Emma Josephine, at home, who is a graduate of the Gibson high school and also pursued a course in bookkeeping at Brown's College; Lillie May, who was also a student in bookkeeping in Brown's Business College in Bloomington; William A., who died in 1890; and Cynthia M. and Florence E., both at home.

The parents are members of the First Presbyterian church, to the support of which they contribute generously. They resided upon the farm until 1905, when they removed to Gibson City, and the following year Mr. Gilmore built a beautiful home. In politics he is a republican, having been a stalwart supporter of the party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise, yet he has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. He has preferred to concentrate his time and energies upon his business affairs, which have been most carefully and ably conducted. His success has resulted largely from judicious investments and these have come as the result of his sound judgment, which is seldom, if ever, at fault in business transactions. He seems to recognize almost intuitively the value of an opportunity and the possibilities which attend it and his keen sagacity is one of the strongest factors in his splendid success. His life, too, has been characterized by

unwearied industry intelligently applied, and the prosperity which he attained should serve to encourage and inspire others, showing the opportunities that lie before the ambitious, determined, industrious American man. His father left about fifteen hundred dollars to each of his children, but aside from this Albert Gilmore received no outside assistance and the success that he has achieved in life is therefore due to his own well directed efforts.

GEORGE DRENDEL.

George Drendel, a practical and progressive farmer of Mona township, living on section 21, owns one hundred and seven acres of rich and arable land on section 22 and 28, and in addition he operates another tract of two hundred and sixty acres also lying in Mona township. It was in this township that Mr. Drendel was born on the 6th of May, 1871, of the marriage of Frank S. and Mary (Slater) Drendel. His father was long known as one of the representative and prominent farmers of the locality. He was born in Germany on the 11th of November, 1839, his parents being Martin and Mary (Smith) Drendel, whose children were Francis, Frank S., Barbara, George and Lewis.

Frank S. Drendel was reared to farm life and was educated in both French and German. He began providing for his own support as a farm hand in his native country when fourteen years of age and was employed by the year until 1865, when he came to the United States. He did not tarry on the eastern coast but made his way at once to Dupage county, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand for two months. He was afterward in St. Louis, Missouri, for a time and later in New Orleans prior to his return to Illinois. In the spring of 1867 he took up his abode in Joliet and for two years was employed as a laborer before coming to Ford county in 1869. Here he rented land and broke prairie for five years, after which he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 21, Mona township, where he has since resided. As the years passed by, however, he prospered and later derived his income from a fine farming property of seven hundred and twenty acres, which was well improved and supplied with modern conveniences, now occupied by his heirs. After becoming a naturalized American citizen he gave his political allegiance to the democracy and for many years served as school director. He was a communicant of the Catholic church and well known in Mona township as a citizen of genuine worth. In 1870 he wedded Miss Mary

Slater and unto them have been born five sons and four daughters, namely: George, Rebecca, Susie, Henry, Frank, Frederick, Mary, Annie and Martin. The father died November 13, 1901.

George Drendel remained with his father until he attained his majority. In the meantime he mastered the common branches of learning taught in the public schools and was trained to habits of industry and economy, thus forming characteristics which in later years have proved an important element in his success. When he had reached manhood he rented land from his father and continued its cultivation for several years while in the meantime he carefully saved his earnings until he was enabled to purchase property for himself. His home farm of one hundred and seven acres on sections 22 and 28, Mona township, is a well developed tract of land and in the cultivation of an additional tract of two hundred and sixty acres he adds materially to his annual income. In all of his farm work he is systematic and progressive and has therefore gained desirable success. He now has charge of his father's estate.

On the 27th of January, 1897, Mr. Drendel was married to Miss Elizabeth Thiel, who was born in La Salle county, Illinois, October 14, 1876, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Hughman) Thiel, who were natives of Germany and came to the United States at an early day. Mrs. Drendel was one of a family of six children and by her marriage has become the mother of two daughters and three sons: Ethel M., Emma E., Lester F., Walter M., and George Henry.

The parents hold membership in the Catholic church at Cullom and Mr. Drendel belongs to the Woodmen lodge there. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the democracy and for seven years he filled the office of school director. The cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion and he staunchly advocates every movement calculated to prove of public good, always desiring the best development of the community.

A. C. MUNRO.

A. C. Munro possesses the enterprising spirit of the middle west. He owns eighty acres of land on sections 28 and 33, Pella township, and operates a farm of two hundred acres. He is thus leading a life of industry and is meeting with fair success in his undertakings. He was born in La Salle

county, Illinois, January 14, 1865, his parents being W. C. and Emma (Pearson) Munro. The father was born in Massachusetts, while the mother's birth occurred near Dayton, Ohio. In 1854 W. C. Munro arrived in Illinois and located in La Salle county, where he began farming, carrying on agricultural pursuits throughout his remaining days. Both he and his wife are now deceased. They were the parents of eight children, seven of whom survive: Rosetta, the wife of Henry Milborn, of Kankakee, Illinois; A. C., of this review; Amanda, deceased; Lemuel B., who resides in Marshalltown, Iowa; Elvira, the wife of James Grey, of Saunemin, Livingston county, Illinois; G. W., who makes his home in Iowa; Ira P., of this county; and Esther, who resides in Fairbury.

No event of special importance occurred to vary the routine of farm life for A. C. Munro in his boyhood and youth. He attended the public schools and thoroughly mastered the branches of learning therein taught. He continued with his father until eighteen years of age, when he started out in business life as a school teacher, following the profession for three years. On the expiration of that period he made a trip westward to Nebraska, where he worked for four years at Alliance, after which he engaged in farming on his own account for two years. In 1891 he returned to Illinois, where he was employed at various kinds of labor for four years and then went to Iowa, where he followed farming for a year. Again returning to his native state, he filled such positions as he could secure for two years and later began farming on his own account.

Mr. Munro was married in 1898 to Miss Edith Dillon, who was born in Livingston county, Illinois, in 1870, a daughter of Edwin and Elizabeth Dillon. The mother is still living in Fairbury, this state, but the father died May 4, 1908. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dillon were born three children: Oscar, now living on the old homestead; Alida, the wife of George Kilbury, and Mrs. Munro. The last named by her marriage has become the mother of four children; Esther L., Edwin C., and Ruth E., who are yet under the parental roof; and Willard R., deceased.

The family home is a farm of eighty acres lying on sections 28 and 33, Pella township, and Mr. Munro operates altogether two hundred acres of land, which he has brought under a high state of cultivation, the fields returning to him rich crops. In his farm work he is practical and has lived a life of industry and untiring diligence, his success being based entirely upon his own labors and capable management. Both Mr. and Mrs. Munro are consistent members of the Christian church of Fairbury and his influence is ever given

on the side of those movements and measures which tend to uplift mankind and make the world better. He is a staunch advocate of the temperance cause and votes with the prohibition party. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his trustworthiness and his ability, have called him to public office. He served as justice of the peace for four years and is now acting as a school director.

HARRY SCHUTTE.

The farming interests of Dix township find a worthy representative in Harry Schutte, who makes his home on section 28. He is pleasantly located about six and a half miles northeast of Gibson City and a mile and a quarter northeast of Guthrie, and here he is successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising. He was born in the northern part of Germany in 1857 and is a son of Gerhard and Taytye Schutte, who were farming people of the fatherland, where they spent their entire lives. In their family were six children, and two sisters, Ellis and Johanna, are now residents of America.

Harry Schutte acquired his education in the schools of Germany and came to America in 1881, when a young man of twenty-four years. He sailed from Bremen and after a voyage of two weeks landed at Baltimore but did not tarry on the eastern coast, making his way direct to Gibson City, Illinois. In this locality he worked out by the month as a farm hand for six years on different farms and then when his labors and economy had brought him sufficient capital he purchased eighty acres of land, of which he became the possessor in 1890, paying for it fifty dollars per acre. Five years later he sold that tract for seventy-five dollars per acre and invested in a quarter section of land where he now lives on section 28, Dix township. For this he paid seventy-five dollars per acre. He has placed most of the improvements upon the property, has drained and tiled the land, built barns, put in scales and in fact has added all modern equipments and accessories which facilitate the farm work. In addition to raising the cereals best adapted to soil and climate he also handles some stock and gains a good financial return annually from his labors in that direction. In addition to the home property he owns one hundred and sixty acres of land in Sullivant township, Ford county, which he purchased two years ago for one hundred and ten dollars per acre and which is well improved.



MR. AND MRS. HARRY SCHUTTE

In 1888 occurred the marriage of Mr. Schutte and Miss Caroline Bonnen a sister of Harry Bonnen, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. She was born in Germany and was a daughter of Bonnie P. and Tillie (De Grote) Bonnen. They came to America in 1867 and Mrs. Schutte acquired her education in the district schools of this country. By her marriage she has become the mother of seven children: George; Tillie; John; Caroline; Annie; Elma, deceased; and the first born, who died in infancy.

Mr. Schutte casts an independent ballot, supporting men and measures rather than party. He is, however, interested in the welfare of his community and his cooperation can always be counted upon to further progressive public measures. He belongs to the German Lutheran church and a life of uprightness and business integrity has won for him the friendship and good will of his fellowmen.

GEORGE D. MONTELIUS.

George D. Montelius, whose prominence in the grain trade of Illinois is indicated by his election as one of the directors of the Illinois State Grain Dealers' Association, is now extensively operating in grain at Piper City under the firm name of George D. Montelius & Company, becoming his father's partner and his successor in the management of the business.

He was born in Piper City, November 30, 1872, and has always made his home here. In early boyhood he attended the public schools and for four years was under the instruction of a private tutor, after which he spent two years as a student in Lake Forest Academy. He likewise attended the Michigan Military Academy at Orchard Lake, Michigan, for two years and following his return to Piper City became a factor in its business circles in the winter of 1894 as a partner with his brothers, J. K. and J. A. Montelius, in the agricultural implement business under the firm style of Montelius Brothers. This association was maintained until the 1st of May, 1902, when George D. Montelius sold his interest to his brother J. A. Montelius, Jr., and entered the grain trade with his father under the firm name of George D. Montelius & Company. He has continued therein to the present time and since the 1st of May, 1902, has been a member of the Chicago Board of Trade. He is widely known because of the extent and importance of his operations as a grain dealer and has met with gratifying success in the business.

On the 1st of November, 1894, Mr. Montelius was married to Miss Clara Plank, who was born in Piper City, a daughter of J. B. Plank. She died in 1896, and on the 26th of June, 1900, Mr. Montelius was again married, his second union being with Anna F. Stadler, a native of this place and a daughter of John Stadler. There are two children of this marriage: Charles H., born June 23, 1902; and Dorothy H., born March 28, 1907.

In his political views Mr. Montelius is an inflexible republican and for three terms has served as village trustee. His cooperation can always be counted upon to aid in the practical work of improving and upbuilding the village. He has attained high rank in Masonry and is a past master of Piper Lodge, No. 608, A. F. & A. M.; a past commander of St. Paul Commandery, No. 34, K. T., of Fairbury, while in Oriental Consistory, Chicago, he has attained the thirty-second degree of the Scottish Rite and is a member of Medinah Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. He also belongs to Piper Lodge, No. 471, I. O. O. F., and to Piper Camp, No. 718, M. W. A. His religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church and as one of its elders he does all in his power to promote its growth and extend its influence. The members of the Montelius family need no introduction to the readers of this volume, for the sons have followed the example of their honored father and are enterprising, reliable business men, who accomplish what they undertake and in that accomplishment follow methods which neither seek nor require disguise.

JOHN RICHARDSON.

John Richardson, who is now living retired in Elliott is numbered among the large landowners of Ford county. He is also accounted one of the pioneer settlers of this section of the state, for in the last half century he has seen the county grow from a wild country with only a few white inhabitants, to a rich agricultural country, containing thousands of good homes and acres of growing towns, inhabited by an industrious and prosperous people, and he has not only been an interested witness but an active participant in the slow, persistent work of development which was necessary to produce this wonderful change.

Mr. Richardson was born in Liverpool, England, January 1, 1829, a son of John and Mary Ann (Kelly) Richardson, the former a farmer of England.

The son acquired his education in the common schools of his native land and there remained until he had attained the age of fourteen years, when he accompanied his parents on their emigration to Quebec, the family home being established in Quebec. He was there bound out to a mason and builder to learn the mason's trade. After completing his apprenticeship he went to Detroit, Michigan, where for a time he worked at his trade and then worked for a time in Flint, that state. In 1857 he made his way to Paxton, Ford county, but after residing there three years he removed to Ten Mile Grove and operated a rented farm for one year subsequent to which time he removed to a farm which he had purchased in Wall township. This tract was originally in possession of the railroad company and after it came under control of our subject it was transformed into a fine tract which annually returned good crops as a reward for the care and labor he had bestowed upon it. As time passed and he prospered in his undertakings he increased the boundaries of his farm until he was in possession of five hundred acres of valuable land which he eventually traded for ten hundred and thirteen acres, situated near Paxton in Dix township. He continued to carry on general agricultural pursuits until 1871, when he retired from active business life and took up his abode in the village of Elliott, occupying the third house that was erected there. He still has extensive landed holdings, however, being the owner of eighteen hundred acres of valuable land, nearly all of which is used for general farming purposes and which returns to him a good annual income which enables him now to spend the evening of his life in honorable retirement.

Mr. Richardson established a home of his own by his marriage in 1856 to Miss Sarah Simons, a daughter of Nathan Simons, who served as the first county clerk of Ford county. Their marriage has been blessed with five children, one son and four daughters, namely: Nathan, who resides on his father's farm; Florence, the wife of A. W. Barrow, a resident of Gibson City, by whom she has one son; Pamelie, the wife of C. P. Wardell, a resident of Los Angeles, California, and the mother of two children; Maud, the wife of Albert Keith, a resident of Chicago, by whom she has two children; and Mary, the wife of O. S. Hopkins, of Oakland, California.

Mr. Richardson is a stalwart supporter of the democratic party and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the United Brethren church. He is numbered among the honorable and honored pioneers of this section of the state and can relate in interesting manner incidents of the early days when deer and wolves were roaming over the prairies and when all kinds of wild game were plentiful. He takes great delight in the wonderful changes which

have here occurred, transforming Ford county into a prosperous district and through the cultivation of the soil has acquired the competence that now enables him at the age of seventy-nine years to live in well earned ease in a comfortable home in Elliott.

HENRY RAAB.

Henry Raab is a worthy representative of one of the honored and respected pioneer families of this section of the state. He is now closely associated with agricultural interests in Ford county and also figures in financial circles as vice president of the Farmers State Bank of Cabery. He was born in Morris, Grundy county, Illinois, May 9, 1863, his parents being George and Wilhelmina (Beaver) Raab, both of whom were natives of Germany. They came to the United States in early life and were married in Illinois. The father died upon the farm which is now the home of his son Henry, his death resulting from the kick of a colt, on the 4th of September, 1864, when he was but thirty-nine years of age. His wife, who was born in Germany, September 20, 1827, crossed the Atlantic in 1856 and died in Cabery, February 13, 1897. After losing her first husband she became the wife of Carl Rusag. There were no children by the second marriage and by the first marriage there was a daughter, Mary, now the wife of Herman Christ, of Kankakee county, Illinois; and Henry.

Henry Raab was only about a year old when his parents removed from Grundy county to Ford county and settled upon the farm which has since been his home. Here he was reared and was early trained to the work of the fields, gaining intimate knowledge of the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. He now owns two hundred and forty acres of land, all on section 20, Rogers township, which includes the eighty acres contained in the original Raab farm. All of the improvements upon the place have been made by our subject and the family. It was a tract of unbroken prairie when the father came, and with characteristic energy he began to turn the furrows and plant the fields, while Henry Raab aided more and more largely in the work of the farm as his age and strength increased. Three years ago he erected his present dwelling, which is a substantial residence, and there are also other good buildings upon the place, indicative of the progressive spirit of the owner, whose energy and diligence have been the resultant factors in his



MR. AND MRS. HENRY RAAB

success. Aside from his farming interests he is now a director and the vice president of the Farmers State Bank of Cabery since its organization in 1903 and he is also a director and secretary of the Kempton Farmers elevator.

On the 17th of December, 1889, Mr. Raab was united in marriage to Miss Christina Ottmuller, who was born in Woodford county, Illinois, near El Paso, September 20, 1867, a daughter of Jacob and Jordena (Johnson) Ottmuller, who were natives of Germany, the former a native of Wittenberg and the latter of Hanover. They were married, however, in Illinois and the father died in Cullom three years ago, at the age of seventy-eight years, while the mother still resides in Cullom. In their family were four children: Charles, who is living near Cullom; Mrs. Raab; Jacob, a resident of North Dakota; and Chris, who is now living in Montana. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Raab have been born four children, Jordena, George, Hattie and Frederick.

Mr. Raab is a stalwart advocate of the republican party, doing all in his power to promote its growth and extend its influence. He is now serving for the third consecutive term as supervisor of Rogers township and his reelection is indicative of his fidelity and capability in office. He belongs to the Lutheran church and is a man whose many excellent traits of character have won for him the respect of those with whom he has come in contact. He is loyal and progressive in citizenship, reliable and diligent in business, and true to the ties of friendship. Almost his entire life has been spent in Ford county and he has been a witness of its growth and upbuilding for forty-four years.

CALEB McKEEVER.

Caleb McKeever is a retired farmer now living in Gibson City. He was born near Brandywine, Delaware, on the 8th of May, 1825, and has therefore passed the eighty-third milestone on life's journey. A review of his record shows much that is commendable and indicates the value of energy and perseverance as factors in the acquirement of success. His parents were William and Sarah (Harlan) McKeever, both natives of Chester county, Pennsylvania, where they were married in 1812. The father was of Scotch extraction and when a lad of fifteen years was one day sent by his parents for a jug of molasses but he hid the jug and ran away to sea, remaining for four years. On his return he looked for the jug but failed to find it. His experience on the ocean, however, had satisfied him with that life and thereafter his time

and energies were devoted to general agricultural pursuits. After his marriage he removed with his family to Delaware. About 1828 he returned to Chester county, Pennsylvania, where he resided until 1833, when he removed to Urbana, Ohio, where he spent one year. He next located on a farm east of Urbana and while living there his wife died, in 1842, at the age of forty-six years, her remains being interred in the cemetery near her home. The father remained in Champaign county until 1867, when he went to Iowa, residing with a daughter until 1870. In that year he came to Ford county and made his home with his son Caleb until his demise, which occurred November 23, 1874. His wife was a member of the Society of Friends, or Quakers. In political belief Mr. McKeever was a democrat. This worthy couple had a family of six children: John and Isaac, deceased; Margaret, the wife of D. Osborn; Caleb, of this review; Mary, the wife of William C. Buneutter; and Ruth A., the wife of J. Spain.

Caleb McKeever acquired his education by attending a district school for about three months in a year. The little "temple of learning" was a log building, the benches made out of slabs, while the desks were formed of slabs resting on wooden pins driven into the sides of the room. The curriculum was limited and the methods of instruction very primitive as compared with the modes of teaching at the present time. The school teacher, too, usually had a belief in the old adage, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." When not busy with his text-books Caleb McKeever worked upon the home farm and his training in the labors of the fields was not meager. On attaining his majority he started out in life on his own account. His mother had died when he was seventeen years of age. Early in manhood he began work by the month as a farm hand, working thus until twenty-seven years of age, when he married and established a home of his own.

It was on the 6th of November, 1851, that Caleb McKeever wedded Miss Sarah E. Thompson, who was born in Champaign county, Ohio, December 12, 1826, and died October 3, 1903. They had traveled life's journey happily together for fifty-two years. Mrs. McKeever was a daughter of John and Elizabeth (King) Thompson, the former born in Pennsylvania and of Scotch-Irish ancestry, while the mother was a native of County Armagh, Ireland, and came to America with her parents when twelve years of age. They were married in Newville, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and to them were born nine children, all of whom have now passed away. They continued residents of Pennsylvania until 1820, when they removed to Champaign county, Ohio, and Mr. Thompson became a very successful and wealthy citizen of that com-

munty. He was also prominent and influential in public affairs, took an active part in matters relating to the general welfare and for twenty-one years acceptably filled the office of justice of the peace. In politics he was a whig and afterward a republican and both he and his wife were devoted members of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. and Mrs. McKeever were married in Champaign county, Ohio, and began their domestic life upon a farm in Logan county, where they made their home for ten years. They afterward removed to Sangamon county, Illinois, settling near Williamsville, where Mr. McKeever rented two hundred and sixty acres of land. This he cultivated until February, 1864, when he bought two hundred and sixty acres of land in Ford county, where he has since made his home. He now owns two hundred and twenty acres of good land, well tiled, having given forty acres to his youngest son, who sold it for two thousand dollars and then bought eighty acres near Gibson, for which he paid two thousand four hundred dollars, and to which he has added until his property interests now include three hundred and twenty acres. The father's farm is one mile north and three miles west of Gibson City and is divided into fields, which are well fenced. Two of his fields contain fifty acres each, two contain twenty-five acres and two others contain thirty-five acres each. He has placed all of the improvements upon his land and made it a rich and valuable farm, known as one of the model farm properties of the locality.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. McKeever were born six children: John, who is now engaged in the implement business in Urbana, Ohio; Samuel Alexander, who died at the age of eighteen months; Sarah Elizabeth, the wife of Dr. T. B. Stross, living with her father in Gibson; William, who resides upon a farm west of Gibson; and Stephen and James, both of whom died in infancy.

Mr. McKeever cast his first presidential vote in Ohio for Lewis Cass and has been a stalwart supporter of the republican party since the Civil war. He has served as supervisor for one term and as school director for a number of years. When he took up his abode in Drummer township there was no school within its borders, but the first year he and other public-spirited citizens built a good schoolhouse. They always employed the best teachers, paying seventy-five dollars per month—a very high wage at that time. There were no railroads through the district at that day and all the trading was done at Bloomington and at Paxton. Mr. McKeever relates many interesting incidents of the early days when this section of the state was largely undeveloped and unimproved. The farm machinery was very crude as compared with that in use at the present time and it is such citizens as Mr. McKeever who have

made Ford county what it is today—one of the richest agricultural sections in this great state. His life has been well spent and in the evening of his days he can look back over the past without regret, for his many excellent traits of character have won for him the respect, good will and veneration of his fellowmen.

FERDINAND FRICKE.

Close application and unremitting industry are always essential elements of success and when guided by discriminating judgment they never fail to bring a satisfactory reward for labor. This is evidenced in the life of Ferdinand Fricke, now a retired farmer and old settler of Ford county. He is now living in Sibley, deriving a large income from his farming interests. He was born in the province of Brandenburg, Germany, September 9, 1852, about fifteen miles east of Berlin, his parents being Carl D. and Caroline (Hammerlink) Fricke.

The father was a weaver by trade and his family removed to the province of Posen, Germany, where he remained until 1875. In that year he crossed the Atlantic and became a resident of McLean county, Illinois, where he turned his attention to general agricultural pursuits. As the years passed he successfully conducted his farming interests until 1897, when, having acquired a handsome competence, he retired to private life and removed to the town of Anchor, McLean county, where he died in 1900. His first wife, the mother of our subject, had passed away in 1882 and Mr. Fricke was afterward married to Mrs. Henrietta Steinleicht, who still survives him. Six of the children by his first marriage reached adult age, and of those who have passed away three died within two days of cholera, which was then epidemic in the province of Posen. The others are: Augusta, the wife of F. Hoffman, of Anchor, Illinois; Carl, deceased; Ferdinand, whose name introduces this record; Gustave, a resident of Anchor, Illinois; and Paulina, the wife of F. Gerbroeck, of Loda.

Ferdinand Fricke was educated in the province of Posen and at the age of nineteen years came to America. He has since 1872 made his home in Ford county and during the early years of his residence here worked as a farm hand in the employ of Mr. Sullivant, then one of the most prominent landowners of this part of the state. He continued in his employ for two years, after which

he cultivated land which he rented from Mr. Sullivant for two years. In the meantime he carefully saved his earnings and in 1880 felt justified in the purchase of eighty acres of the old Sullivant farm on section 19, Sullivant township, in the northwestern part of the county, for which he paid twenty-two hundred and fifty dollars. The land was unimproved and Mr. Fricke had to erect all of the buildings and do all of the work, whereby this tract was converted into rich and productive fields. Year after year his labors were carefully conducted until 1891, when he sold the land, for which he received seventy dollars per acre. He had in the meantime erected a fine residence and made other substantial improvements there. Following the sale of the property he removed to McLean county, where he purchased one hundred and seventy acres, for which he gave seventy dollars per acre. This land lies on section 3, Anchor township and is splendidly equipped with a comfortable dwelling, barns, cribs and sheds. It is well tiled and the soil is naturally productive and Mr. Fricke could easily sell for two hundred dollars per acre. In addition to this property he owns one hundred and twenty acres in Wall township, Ford county, which he purchased in 1903 for one hundred and twenty-five dollars per acre. This farm is also excellently improved in every respect. He purchased his present home in Sibley in 1905, having here a two-story residence of nine rooms, for which he paid forty-five hundred dollars. When he first came to the county it was practically an unimproved district and there was not a house upon the road between Gibson and his place.

On the 2d of March, 1876, Mr. Fricke was married to Miss Marie Scheppleman, a daughter of Louis and Caroline (Lidickie) Scheppleman, who were natives of Germany and became residents of St. Louis in 1854. They were married in that city and thence removed to Pekin, Illinois, residing in Tazewell county for ten years, while in 1868 they became residents of Ford county, settling in the northwestern part of the county. Few roads had been laid out and no bridges had been built. Mr. Scheppleman had two neighbors who lived not far distant but other settlements were four or five miles away. There were various kinds of wild animals which infested the districts, including wolves, bears, wildcats and coons. There were many deer and various kinds of feathered game. Mr. Scheppleman did not at first purchase land but rented land until 1875, when he bought eighty acres near Fairbury. This was slightly improved and he paid thirty-six dollars per acre for it. Subsequently he sold it for about the same price and then purchased three hundred and sixty acres in Sullivant township, which was entirely unimproved, being simply raw prairie land. With characteristic energy he began its development and cultivation and it is now one

of the best farms of the county worth two hundred dollars per acre. He died upon this place in 1897, while his wife survived him until 1902. They were the parents of ten children, of whom six are yet living, namely: Marie, now Mrs. Fricke; Christ, a resident of East Lynn, Illinois; Louis, also of Illinois; Henry, who makes his home in Sibley; Charles, who resides on the old home farm; and Rudolph, also of Ford county.

Mr. and Mrs. Fricke became the parents of seven children, as follows: Louie, a resident of Melvin; Annie, the wife of Lambert Brithorse, of Ford county; Charley, who makes his home in Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Frederick, of Anchor, Illinois; William, of Bloomington, this state; and Marie and Emanuel, both at home. Mr. and Mrs. Fricke belong to the German Lutheran church and Mr. Fricke is a member of Columbian Lodge, I. O. O. F. He has taken quite an active interest in politics, serving in McLean county as township collector of Anchor township for one term, while at present he is alderman in Sibley. He was also a school director in Anchor township for a number of years. The cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion.

In politics he is a republican, believing that its platform contains the best elements of good government. As time has passed he has worked on steadily and persistently year after year, adding to his capital continually until now in the possession of a handsome competence he finds it unnecessary to continue the active work of the farm, for his income is sufficient to supply all his wants. He may well be proud of the success which he has achieved, as it is said that ninety-five per cent of the men who enter business life never gain prosperity and yet the road to success is open to all. Mr. Fricke had the perseverance to continue therein and he based his business principles and actions upon the rules which govern strict and unswerving integrity and industry.

JOHN MEIKLE.

John Meikle, whose death on the 1st of March, 1886, deprived Piper City of one of its esteemed and valued residents, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, about 1837. He was left an orphan at an early age and went to live with his father's brother. At the age of fifteen he became a resident of Wau-pun, Wisconsin, with his uncle Robert and for ten years remained a resident of the Badger state.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN MEIKLE

During that period Mr. Meikle was married, in Wisconsin, in 1861, to Miss Elizabeth Entwistle, who was born in Liverpool, England, June 1, 1843, and was only four months old when her parents crossed the Atlantic to the new world, establishing their home in Wisconsin, where she resided until her marriage. Her parents were James and Jane (Draper) Entwistle, natives of Bolton, England, who lived for a considerable period in Wisconsin but died in Ford county, Illinois. After losing his wife, the father made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Meikle, passing away at the very venerable age of ninety-six years. Both he and his wife were of French lineage. By his first marriage Mr. Entwistle had two children and by a latter marriage had four children, Mrs. Meikle being the only daughter of the second marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Meikle began their domestic life in Wisconsin, where they remained for about two years, and then removed to Peoria in 1863. Three years were there passed, after which they took up their abode in Chatsworth, Livingston county, Illinois, in 1866. In 1870 they came to Ford county, settling on a farm in Brenton township, where Mr. Meikle carried on general agricultural pursuits for about ten years, having two hundred and twenty acres of land, which he cultivated and improved, making it a valuable farm. At length he sold that land and bought a tract of land of one hundred and sixty acres a mile south of Piper City, where he resided up to the time of his death. Throughout his entire life he carried on general agricultural pursuits and prospered in his undertakings. He developed the present fine farm which is now the property of his widow, placed good buildings upon it and added all modern improvements and accessories. In addition to cultivating the cereals best adapted to the soil and climate he made a specialty of raising draft horses, both Percheron and Norman, and was the owner of some very fine stock. He took a great interest in fine horses and exhibited at various fairs where he carried off many premiums.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Meikle were born four children: George, now living at Kiester, Minnesota; Maggie, the wife of A. Kiplinger of Piper City; Jennie, at home; and John, who is living upon the old homestead farm in Brenton township.

In his political views Mr. Meikle was a stalwart republican, interested in the growth and success of the party. He held some school and road offices and was most loyal in citizenship, doing everything in his power to promote the welfare and upbuilding of his community. He held membership in the Presbyterian church and lived an upright, consistent Christian life, winning for him the warm regard of all with whom he came in contact. In his busi-

ness, too, he was energetic, diligent and reliable, and in addition to his home place of one hundred and sixty acres in Brenton township he owned three hundred and twenty acres of land in Livingston county. He possessed many of the sterling characteristics of the Scotch people and his death was an occasion of deep and wide-spread regret, for he had many friends in the county.

For about eighteen years Mrs. Meikle has now resided in Piper City, where she owns a pleasant and well kept home. She also has good income property, including a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Brenton township which she received from her father's estate. She has a wide and favorable acquaintance in the community and the hospitality of many of the best homes is cordially extended to her.

L. D. JACKSON.

L. D. Jackson is and has been connected with so many important interests of the county as to be recognized as one of its leading citizens, closely associated with those interests which have promoted its upbuilding and formulated its policy. He was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, September 17, 1864, and is a son of William and Delia Jackson, who were likewise natives of the same county and are still living there. The father has always followed farming, employing that as a source of livelihood. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jackson were born four sons and two daughters, namely: Charles A., a resident of Manchester, Indiana; L. D., of this review; Warren T. and Thomas J., both residents of Ford county; Timmie, the wife of Joseph Kirkwood, of Osburn, Ohio; and Lulu, the wife of Nathan Griggs, of Manchester, Indiana.

As boy and youth L. D. Jackson became familiar with the work of the farm, aiding his father in the cultivation and improvement of the fields until after he had attained his majority. He attended the common schools and thus acquired a fair knowledge of the English branches of learning. When he had reached man's estate he rented one of his father's farms and for three years continued its cultivation, when he sought a home in Ford county, Illinois, and for three years cultivated rented land. During this period he carefully saved his earnings, and his wise expenditure and untiring industry brought him the capital that enabled him to invest in property. He then bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 14, Brenton township, and began its improvement by tiling and adding other necessary and modern

equipments. He has erected good buildings, has utilized the latest improved machinery in carrying on the work of the farm and has today a fine property, presenting a splendid appearance in its well tilled fields and substantial buildings. Mr. Jackson is also secretary of the Ford County Fair and Driving Association and a director of the Bell Union Telephone Company, No. 1.

In his political views Mr. Jackson is an earnest democrat and desiring the success of the party has labored in local fields for its advancement. Since 1899 he has served as assessor, being continued in the office through reelection. He is also a commissioner of the drainage ditch and for five years has been chairman of the democratic committee.

In 1886 occurred the marriage of L. D. Jackson and Miss Emma J. Judd, who was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, in 1863, a daughter of Orin and Mary Jane Judd, who were likewise natives of that state but are both now deceased. Mrs. Judd was one of five children and by her marriage has become the mother of two sons, Orin W. and Charles E., the former now a pupil in the high school of Piper City.

Mr. Jackson belongs to that class of men who have realized that success is not an unattainable thing and also understands the fact that it is acquired only through diligence and indefatigable labor. He has worked persistently and his labors have been crowned with a measure of success that makes him one of the substantial agriculturists of his part of the county.

E. F. DUCKWORTH.

E. F. Duckworth, engaged in the hardware and lumber business at Cabery, owning an equal interest with Mr. Keighin in a large and well selected stock of goods, is a young man of marked enterprise, of tireless energy, of keen perception and honesty of purpose. He was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, January 21, 1870, his parents being Richard and Susan Duckworth, who were natives of the state of New York. Removing westward, they settled in Kendall county, Illinois, in 1863 and are now residents of Iroquois county. They became the parents of three children, of whom E. M. Duckworth is the eldest, his brothers, Austin and William, twins, being yet at home.

E. F. Duckworth was also reared under the parental roof and is indebted to the public-school system of Illinois for the educational privileges which he enjoyed and to the Grand Mercer Seminary. Lessons of industry, integrity

and enterprise were also impressed upon his mind by his parents in his youth and after he had attained his majority he became a feature in business circles, purchasing a hardware store at Herscher, where he continued in business for three years. On the expiration of that period he sold out and came to Cabery, where he purchased a half interest in the hardware and lumber business of Mr. Keighin. They have an excellent trade, which is constantly increasing, and in their business interests they are methodical, systematic and energetic.

On the 9th of January, 1901, Mr. Duckworth was married to Miss Caroline Musson, whose parents are now residents of Watseka, Illinois. Mrs. Duckworth is their only surviving child and by her marriage she has become the mother of one daughter, Lima Margaret. The parents are consistent and helpful members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Duckworth belongs to the Odd Fellows lodge at Herscher, while both he and his wife are connected with the Rebekah degree. In politics he is a republican, interested in the growth and success of the party. His business success is largely due to the fact that in their business the firm aim at high standard in the character of the goods which they carry and in their service to the public and meet competition in a rivalry of merit rather than in a war of prices. Their business, too, is permeated by a spirit of courtesy, thoroughness, enthusiasm, energy and progressiveness.

PETER WAGNER.

The name of Peter Wagner is so closely associated with the history of Cabery, its progress and upbuilding, as to render it imperative that mention be made of him in this connection. He was a man of marked enterprise and strength of purpose, of keen discernment and of public spirit, and while promoting his individual success he also contributed in substantial measure to the general welfare. Moreover, there was not an esoteric phase in his career but on the contrary his methods were such as neither sought nor required disguise but would bear the closest investigation.

Mr. Wagner was born in Trier city in the Rhine province of Germany, in 1843, and arrived in Ford county in 1863 when a young man of twenty years to join his older brother. Upon reaching his destination, however, he found that his brother had been drafted for service in the Civil war. Mr. Wagner,

who was then single, decided that he had better go in place of his brother, who was married and had a family. Accordingly he immediately joined the army and left for the south. He did not understand a word of English and felt handicapped and embarrassed, so he bought a dictionary and at once began to study the language. The regiment to which he belonged was assigned to duty with Sherman's army and while with that command Mr. Wagner became ill of malaria and was sent to the hospital in Chicago, where he remained until the close of the war. The spirit of unselfishness which he displayed in taking his brother's place was ever one of his marked characteristics and won for him in large measure the warm regard of those with whom he was associated.

When the war was over Mr. Wagner returned to Ford county and devoted his life to farming and other business pursuits. His investments were judiciously made, his business interests were carefully conducted and his enterprise and diligence were the salient characteristics of his success. He left a fine estate on the county line of Ford and Kankakee counties, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, constituting the northeast quarter of section 17, Rogers township and sixty acres across the road in Norton township, Kankakee county. He brought his land under a high state of cultivation, transforming his land into rich and productive fields which were carefully operated and brought him a gratifying annual income. When the Illinois Central Railroad was built through, by making to the company a heavy donation, he induced them to build a station where Cabery now stands on the Kankakee side. He then platted his land and erected a number of buildings and assisted in many ways to found the town and establish it upon a growing basis. He built the Cabery Tile & Brick Works and was the pioneer tile manufacturer in the Panhandle of Ford county. He was also the first to lay tile and promote the drainage and work which has been of inestimable value to Ford county, for thus much low and swampy land has been reclaimed for the purposes of cultivation and is today rich agricultural property, contributing in substantial measure to the prosperity of this part of the state.

After his military service had ended Mr. Wagner returned to Germany, where he was married to Miss Anna Bosen, to whom he had become betrothed in his youth. She was a native of Trier city, of the Rhine province, and following their marriage Mr. Wagner returned with his bride to the United States and spent his remaining days in Cabery with the exception of two years passed in Chicago. He died in Cabery in 1892, when in the fiftieth year of his age, and his wife survived him for about nine years, passing away in 1901 in her fifty-fourth year. She was one of a family of eleven children, ten of whom

are yet living, and Mr. Wagner was one of a family of three children. Unto them were born three sons and two daughters: John, now a resident of Kankakee; Anna, the wife of Matt Seiwert, of Chicago; Kate, the wife of Fred Schneider, of Kankakee; Peter N., who resides at the old home in Cabery and manages the estate; and Frank, at home.

Mr. Wagner was a man of marked enterprise and public spirit, whose cooperation could always be counted upon to further any movement that tended to promote the welfare or advance the interests of Cabery and the county. He was liberal in his donations to all public movements of this character. His own home in Cabery was a large, fine dwelling in the west part of the town, a portion of his farm lying within the corporation limits of the village. Upon the place were also good outbuildings and all of the equipments of a model farm. In his political views Mr. Wagner was a stalwart democrat and filled all of the village offices, being unanimously elected president of the village. No trust reposed in him was ever betrayed in the slightest degree and on the contrary his life record furnishes a splendid example for emulation, because of his reliability and progressiveness in citizenship, his trustworthiness in business and his devotion to the ties of home and friendship.

Peter N. Wagner, to whom we are indebted for the sketch of his father, is living upon the farm where he was born, July 21, 1880. He has always followed agricultural pursuits and is accounted one of the progressive and energetic young men of Cabery. As a voter he is a republican, giving loyal support to that party and is now serving as one of the village trustees.

ANDREW JORDAN.

Andrew Jordan, one of the earliest settlers of Ford county and one of her most successful farmers, was the owner of eight hundred and eighty acres of very fine land, his home being situated on section 13, Drummer township. A man of enterprising and progressive spirit, he brought his farm under a high state of cultivation, placing thereon excellent buildings and many substantial improvements.

Mr. Jordan was born near Louisville, Kentucky, August 28, 1828, his parents being William and Lovica (Brooks) Jordan, both of whom were natives of Virginia and located in Kentucky about 1818. A few years later they removed to Monroe county, near Gosport, Indiana, where they spent the remainder of



MR. AND MRS. ANDREW JORDAN



their lives. The father died about 1855 and the mother about 1849. By occupation he was a farmer and ever followed that business for a livelihood. Both he and his wife were adherents of the Baptist church and his political allegiance was given to the democracy.

Our subject was fifth in order of birth in a family of twelve children. He received but a limited education and remained with his parents until he had attained his majority, when he started out in life for himself. With a horse and fifteen dollars in money, he located near Virginia, Cass county, Illinois, and began work as a farm hand, receiving thirteen dollars per month. In the fall of 1850, he returned to Indiana and after a short time went to Bloomington, Illinois, where he worked for about six months. He then became a resident of Cass county, Illinois, where he was engaged as a farm hand. Once more he returned to Indiana and subsequently located in Champaign county, Illinois, having purchased one hundred acres of land. A year later, however, he exchanged farms with his father-in-law, receiving eighty acres, which Mr. Devore had entered from the government.

Mr. Jordan was married, on the 30th of November, 1852, to Miss Amanda Devore, who was born near Gosport, Owen county, Indiana, March 16, 1835, a daughter of Nicholas and Polly (Hartzog) Devore, who were of German lineage. They were also members of the Christian church, and in politics Mr. Devore was a stalwart republican. Immediately after their marriage our subject and his wife settled on their farm in Champaign county, but in March, 1854, came to Ford county. From time to time he added to his possessions until he became the owner of eleven hundred acres, but afterward sold a portion of it and at the time of his death owned eight hundred and eighty acres of valuable land. He also owned and operated one of the largest brick and tile works in the county and, in connection with his farming, raised a fine grade of horses and cattle. His well directed labor and untiring perseverance brought to him a most gratifying measure of success as the years went by and he was widely recognized as a prosperous and influential citizen of the community. In the early days of his residence in this county he underwent all the hardships and trials of frontier life. The first home of the family was a log cabin, and they did their first corn planting under trying circumstances. Mr. Jordan would take the baby (their son William) in his arms and plow for a time, while his wife would drop the corn. At length he fixed a box on top of the plow and, placing the little fellow in that, resumed his work. Markets were far distant, and Paxton, Loda, Elliott, Gibson, Melvin and Sibley, all now thriving towns, were not then laid out. They saw the introduction of all the railroads in this part of the county

and were eye witnesses of much of the growth and development of this community.

Five children were born unto Mr. and Mrs. Jordan: William, who has been identified with farming in Sibley; James, who carries on general agricultural pursuits on section 24, Drummer township; John, a successful farmer and tile manufacturer, residing on section 24, Drummer township; Lizzie, the wife of Dr. Campbell; and Charles, who cultivates three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 24, Drummer township, a part of his father's estate.

The parents were people of benevolent disposition, holding membership with the Christian church in Gibson and taking an active interest in its work. Church and Sunday school were held in their home and that of their neighbors in the early days. In the fall of 1890 Mr. Jordan donated two hundred and twenty thousand brick for the beautiful church edifice in which he worshiped and which stands as a monument to his benevolence. In 1861 the first township and the first presidential elections in Drummer township were held in his home.

Mr. Jordan was the first supervisor of Drummer township, which office he filled for two years, and was recognized as one of the most honored and prominent citizens of the county. In the faithful discharge of his duties and every trust reposed in him, he won the confidence and high regard of all and when he was called to his final rest on the 28th day of June, 1901, the county mourned the loss of one of its worthy and respected pioneers.

THOMAS REYNOLDS.

Thomas Reynolds is the owner of an excellent farm of two hundred and forty acres situated about a quarter of a mile west of Guthrie in Dix township and his life is devoted to its further development and improvement with the result that he has made it a valuable property, from which he annually derives a gratifying income. He was born near Russellville, Kentucky, in 1843. His parents, William and Elizabeth (Edgar) Reynolds, are both now deceased. The father was a farmer of Kentucky and died in that state when his son Thomas was but six years of age. The mother long survived and passed away in 1901 at the age of eighty-five years. Their family numbered six children: P. F., who is now living in Kansas; Mary, who is living with her sister, P. F.; Joseph, deceased; Thomas, of this review; Joseph, the second of the name, who has also passed away; and Elizabeth, deceased.

Thomas Reynolds was a youth of about eleven years when he came to Illinois with his mother in 1854, the family home being established in Logan county, where he acquired his education as a pupil in the district school. He started out in life on his own account at the age of twenty-three years and has since been dependent entirely upon his own resources. He was married in 1869 to Miss Malinda J. Sumner, a daughter of Norman Sumner, a farmer of Logan county, who is now deceased, as is his wife.

In the year of his marriage Mr. Reynolds removed to Ford county and settled a quarter of a mile west of Guthrie on section 30, Dix township. He had in 1867 purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land here and later he bought eighty acres more, so that he now owns two hundred and forty acres in all. Here he follows general farming and is accounted one of the progressive and wide-awake agriculturists of the community. In the midst of his place stands a nice farm residence facing Guthrie, the village being only a quarter of a mile to the east, while the Illinois Central Railroad passes just south of the house, extending in a southwesterly direction. Everything about the place is kept in excellent condition and the neat and thrifty appearance of the farm indicates the careful supervision and untiring efforts of the owner. He has put all of the improvements upon the place and has tilled the land, making it very productive. It was very wet when it came into his possession and for it he paid only eight dollars per acre but it is now classed with the fine farms of this rich agricultural section.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds have been born six children: William, who married Amanda Duclos and is living in Kankakee, Illinois; Robert and Frank, at home; Ora, Effie and Fannie, who are also at home. The children have been provided with excellent educational advantages. William and Robert were students in the Northern Indiana Normal College at Valparaiso, which Frank also attended, while later he was graduated on the completion of a business course at Dixon, Illinois. Ora is a graduate of the Gibson high school and attended the Normal School for two summers. Effie likewise graduated from the Gibson high school, and Fannie completed a course there in the summer of 1908.

Mr. Reynolds has always been loyal in citizenship and at the time of the Civil war enlisted in 1864 as a member of Company D, One Hundred and Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, in Logan county, remaining with that command until honorably discharged in September of the same year. His political allegiance has always been given to the republican party and he keeps well informed on the questions and issues of the day. He has served as school trustee for eight years

and also as road commissioner, yet has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. Both he and his wife are members of the Christian church and the family is highly esteemed in the community, the hospitality of the best homes being freely accorded them.

NATHAN MILLER HIGGINS.

In a history of the representative men of Ford county who have contributed to its development and substantial progress and who through intelligently directed labor have achieved success, mention should be made of Nathan Miller Higgins, who departed this life on the 10th of March, 1907. He was uniformly respected, not alone because of the success he achieved but also by reason of the honorable, straightforward methods which he ever followed.

His birth occurred in Huntington, Massachusetts, October 29, 1845, and he was one of a family of twelve children, three of whom died in infancy or early childhood. He lost his father when about ten years of age and was left an orphan by his mother's death when he was a youth of fifteen. He remained a resident of Massachusetts to the age of eighteen years, when he started for the middle west, settling at Fort Wayne, Indiana, where he was employed in a store for about two years. From there he went to St. Louis, Missouri, and in the fall of 1866 joined his brother Prentice at Elmwood, Illinois, and worked as a farm hand in his brother's employ until the fall of 1869.

That date witnessed his arrival in Ford county. He investigated the farm property for sale and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, to which he removed the following spring, making his home thereafter in this county until he was called to his final rest. Later he added to the original tract until he became the owner of two hundred and forty acres on section 34, Brenton township. He made all of the improvements on the first tract but the eighty acre tract which he purchased was somewhat improved when it came into his possession. He regarded real estate as the safest of all investments and therefore placed his money in property. The home farm was brought under a high state of cultivation through his energy and diligence and as his financial resources increased he added to his property from time to time until he acquired three other farms in this vicinity, two of eighty acres and one of one hundred and sixty acres. He likewise invested in a half section of land in South



MR. AND MRS. NATHAN M. HIGGINS

Dakota and later an additional quarter section, and thus from his property interests derived a gratifying income. He was also stockholder in and secretary and treasurer of the Thawville tile factory for a number of years.

On the 12th of March, 1872, Mr. Higgins was married to Miss Mary Jane Mosher, who was born near Fonda, New York, November 25, 1849, and was brought to the middle west at the age of six years by her parents, Alexander and Elizabeth (McLaughlin) Mosher, who were natives of New York and on removing to Illinois settled at Elmwood. In 1877 they came to Ford county and took up their abode one mile south of the farm upon which Mrs. Higgins resides. There the death of the husband and father occurred, after which the other members of the family removed to Roberts. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Higgins were born six children: Mary Elizabeth, the wife of William Gardner of Fisher; Charles, living at home with his mother; Nathan Le Roy, a resident of Chicago; Aleck Prentice, Effie Estella and Milo Edwin, all at home.

In his political views Mr. Higgins was a stalwart republican and held some school offices but otherwise did not care for political preferment although he was loyal to the principles in which he believed. He was a man of domestic tastes, quiet and retiring in disposition, devoted to his family, his interest centering in his home. He was a self-made man and owed his success to his close application and unremitting diligence. He always rose very early to attend to his business and the story of his early rising became proverbial in the neighborhood. On one occasion several farmers of the neighborhood purchased nursery stock together and it was delivered at Onarga, about eleven miles from Mr. Higgins' home. One of the neighbors, who has also been a purchaser of the stock, thought to himself, "I'll get ahead of him once by going early to Onarga. I will draw the shades that he may not see the light and will think that I am still sleeping." He carried out his plan of rising early but when he got half way to Onarga he met Mr. Higgins on his way home with the trees. He still persisted, however, that the joke was partly on Mr. Higgins because he had wandered two miles out of his way. In those early days there were no regularly laid out roads so that it was not a difficult thing for a traveler to wander from the path. Mr. Higgins was never neglectful of duty but on the contrary did ably and well everything that he undertook and as the years passed he gained a gratifying measure of prosperity.

With his wife he spent two winters in Florida and one in Texas for the benefit of his health but death claimed him on the 10th of March, 1907, when he was in his sixty-second year. His life record is in many respects worthy

of emulation as it indicates what may be accomplished when one has determination and energy. It was those qualities which made Mr. Higgins one of the representative farmers of Brenton township and Ford county, while the straightforward business principles which he advocated gained for him the respect of his fellowmen. He was always straightforward in his dealings and just in his relations and, moreover, he possessed a kindly spirit, which was particularly manifest at his own fireside.

REV. ROBERT McCracken.

Rev. Robert McCracken, a pioneer of Paxton, devoted many years of his life to the active work of the ministry and, moreover, was a most successful business man, his life record standing in emphatic contradiction of the statement made by many that business success and honesty are incompatible. He became one of the largest landowners of Ford county and yet throughout his entire business career he was regarded as the soul of commercial honor and integrity. His memory is indeed sacredly cherished in the hearts of those who knew him and remains as a blessed benediction to his family and his many friends who survive him.

Rev. Robert McCracken was born in Castlewellyn, County Down, Ireland, in the year 1815. Early in life his parents dedicated him to the ministry and much of his boyhood was spent away from home in attending school. In 1844 he was graduated from the Royal College of Belfast, Ireland, and after preaching one of his trial sermons before a presbytery in his native land with his parents as interested and appreciative listeners he left home for America, arriving in this country in the spring of 1845 to devote his life to ministerial labor in the new world. His first pastorate was at Austintown, Ohio, where he accepted a call from the Reformed Presbyterian church, commonly called New School Covenanter. He was there installed May 29, 1848, and continued his pastoral labors at Austintown until 1851, when he accepted a call from the Reformed Presbyterian church at Wurttemberg, Pennsylvania, where he labored for the upbuilding of the congregation until 1857.

That year witnessed the arrival of Rev. McCracken in Illinois. He became pastor of the Walnut Hill congregation near Centralia and in 1860 came to this part of the state, filling various pulpits prior to accepting the call of the United Presbyterian congregation at Paxton. He removed with his family to

this city early in 1861. The congregation at that time numbered only seventeen but at the first communion seventeen new members were received. Rev. McCracken continued as pastor of the congregation until April, 1865, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. E. Truesdale. In the meantime the membership of the church had largely increased, seventy-five new members being added at the last two communions at which Rev. McCracken presided. This was his last pastoral charge and yet his interest in the church never waned. He was throughout life an active factor in all those movements for reform, progress and improvement and for the amelioration of hard conditions of life for the unfortunate.

Soon after coming to Paxton, at the earnest solicitation of friends, Rev. McCracken consented to become a candidate for the office of county superintendent of schools and was elected, serving for two years, during which time he did important service in establishing the public-school system of Ford county upon an excellent basis. The cause of public instruction ever found in him a stalwart champion and for several years he did effective work in behalf of Paxton's schools as a member of the board of education. He was also one of the promoters of the Rice Collegiate Institute and gave to it his earnest support until failing health in large measure compelled him to retire from activity in public affairs. In antebellum days he was a stanch advocate of abolition and took an active interest in politics at that time when every true American citizen was aroused to express his views concerning the great issues that dominated public attention prior to the Civil war. He joined the republican party on its organization and remained one of its stalwart champions throughout the residue of his days. He was also greatly interested in the cause of temperance and threw the energies of his mind and soul against the licensing of saloons, contributing largely through his influence toward the creation of the temperance sentiment in Paxton in earlier days. For four years he was a resident of Hoopeston but returned to Paxton and continued to reside here until his death. He remained a member of the United Presbyterian church until after his return to Paxton, when he and his family became members of the Congregational church.

On the 29th day of May, 1849, Rev. Robert McCracken was married to Miss Elizabeth C. Hogg, of Canfield, Ohio, who was ever a true helpmate, a wise counselor and a comforting companion to him. They became the parents of ten children, four of whom died in childhood, three of the number passing away within three weeks. The others are: David P., Robert A. and Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, who are residents of Paxton; Mrs. T. M. Kell, of Los

Angeles, California; G. Ewing, of Bloomfield, Indiana; and Mrs. Frances W. Best, of Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. He was devoted to his family and at his own fireside was ever a loving husband and fond father, interested in all that interested his children and putting forth every effort possible for their welfare and happiness.

In his business life Rev. McCracken won a gratifying measure of success. During his residence in Hoopeston he was engaged in merchandising but his time and attention were largely given to his investments in realty and his farming interests. He became one of the most extensive landowners of central Illinois, purchasing farm after farm of the rich prairie land until his possessions aggregated more than four thousand acres. In all of his business transactions he was thoroughly reliable, never being known to take advantage of the necessities of another in a business transaction. His success came to him because of his sound judgment, his keen sagacity, his unflagging enterprise and unabating diligence. During the last two years of his life he was in ill health but his mental faculties remained unimpaired and but a few days prior to his death he transacted some business with one of his tenants.

On the 4th of November, 1904, he passed away, having lived to complete nearly nine decades. He ever stood in support of what he deemed to be right in man's relations with his fellowmen, giving his aid and influence in support of the great movements affecting the welfare and progress of state and nation and at the same time neglecting not those quieter duties of the everyday relations of life—the little kindly ministries to family and friends, the word of encouragement and wise counsel and the substantial aid—when such was needed. It was these things which causes the memory of Rev. Robert McCracken to be cherished by all who knew him.

CHARLES A. JORDAN.

Charles A. Jordan, who cultivates a good farm of three hundred and twenty acres on section 24, Drummer township, a part of his father's estate, is a representative of one of the old and prominent families of Ford county. He was born in this county, February 3, 1859. About five years before his father, Andrew Jordan, had settled here, having, however, previously lived for a time in Cass and Champaign counties. He was born in Louisville, Kentucky, August 28, 1828, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. He was reared to the occupation of

farming and throughout his entire life followed that pursuit. On leaving the south, he took up his abode in Cass county, Illinois, where he resided for a time and later removed to Champaign county, where he made his home until coming to Ford county in March, 1854. He found a district here largely wild and unimproved and with its early development and progress was closely associated. He first purchased one hundred acres of land but to this added from time to time as his financial resources increased until he became the owner of eleven hundred acres. A part of this he sold prior to his death, owning, however, at the time of his demise eight hundred acres of rich and valuable Illinois farm land. He was a man of resourceful business ability and did not confine his efforts entirely to agricultural pursuits but also became identified with the industrial interests, owning the largest brick and tile factory in this part of the county. He gave two hundred thousand brick to the church in which he worshipped. He was interested in all that pertained to the material and moral development of the community and his influence was ever found on the side of right and progress.

In the district schools at Wantwood Charles A. Jordan pursued his education to the age of seventeen years, after which he devoted his entire time to work upon his father's farm. He had previously received training in that line of activity through the assistance which he had rendered in the development of the fields in the periods of vacation. Having reached man's estate, he chose as a companion and helpmate for life's journey Miss Gertrude Caldwell, a daughter of Michael Caldwell, of Dix township, who was a successful farmer. The wedding was celebrated in October, 1882, and unto Mr. and Mrs. Jordan have been born the following named: Moses Edwin, who is now a widower and has one son; Bessie May and Charles Elmer, both of whom are deceased; Olive Belle, living at home; John Loyd, who was killed by the cars; Ralph, who attends school; Julia Gertrude, now deceased; and Walter, also at home.

Since his marriage Mr. Jordan has devoted his entire time and attention to general agricultural pursuits and stock-raising. He makes a specialty of Percheron horses and has owned and sold some very fine specimens of this breed. He cultivates three hundred and twenty acres belonging to his father's estate and in his farm work has been very successful, the splendid appearance of the place indicating his careful supervision and practical methods. He belongs to the Court of Honor and to the Christian church. His political preference is for the republican party and he has served as school director. He has never sought office, however, as a reward for party fealty, for he finds that his time and attention are fully occupied by his complex business duties. A resident of the county for almost a half century, he has been a witness of much of its growth

and development and his labors have been an element in its substantial development. The Jordan family has ever figured among the prominent and leading citizens of the community and as such Charles A. Jordan is well known.

CAMPBELL G. BROTHERTON.

In Guthrie and throughout this section of Ford county the name of Campbell G. Brotherton is regarded as a synonym of integrity, for over the record of his business career there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil. He possesses unfaltering diligence and his labors are intelligently directed by sound and discriminating judgment. His birth occurred in Valley Grove, West Virginia, not far from Wheeling, in 1865. His parents were John and Mary (Gaston) Brotherton, the former a farmer by occupation. Their son Campbell was only about a year old when his father died, being then about fifty years of age. The mother came to Illinois in 1878 and located on a farm southeast of Guthrie, which is now the property of Richard Bonnen.

Campbell G. Brotherton was a youth of thirteen years at the time of the removal to Illinois. He acquired his preliminary education in the district schools and afterward continued his studies in the Gibson high school, thus qualifying for a practical and responsible business career. In the school of experience he has also learned many valuable lessons and from the incidents, contacts and experiences of life he has learned many helpful lessons. He remained at home until seventeen years of age and then started out in life on his own account as a clerk in the store of P. J. Yager in Guthrie, where he continued for five or six years as a most trustworthy and faithful employe. Desiring that his labors should more directly benefit himself, he then began buying grain in Guthrie and has since continued in the business, being one of the well known grain merchants of this part of the state. In the fall of 1898, in association with Mr. McClure, he built an elevator and at the same time they established a banking business, which has been of much convenience to the people of the district. They also handle lumber, coal and tile and their trade is now quite extensive.

In September, 1889, Mr. Brotherton was united in marriage to Miss Addie L. Minor, a daughter of J. M. and Julia Minor, who were farming people. Her mother is now deceased, while her father resides upon a farm near Guthrie. Mrs. Brotherton was born in 1870 and died in 1902, leaving five children: Roy,



MR. AND MRS. C. G. BROTHERTON



Floyd, William, Vernard and Edna, all yet at home. Mr. Brotherton is devoted to the welfare and happiness of his family and regards no personal effort or sacrifice on his part too great if it will promote the welfare and interests of his children.

He has been school treasurer for about fourteen years and the cause of education finds in him a stalwart champion. He was made an Odd Fellow in Gibson City Lodge, No. 542, I. O. O. F., on the 25th of October, 1889, and became a charter member of the Guthrie Lodge, with which he is now indentified. His political allegiance is given to the democratic party and his religious faith is indicated by his membership in the Presbyterian church. Viewed in a personal light, Mr. Brotherton is a strong man, strong in his honor and his good name, strong in his ability to plan and to perform. He is noted throughout the community for his honesty and the citizens of Guthrie and the vicinity speak of him only in terms of the highest praise. This record is such a one as any man might be proud to possess and it has won for him the entire respect of his colleagues and the admiration of his contemporaries.

WILLIAM B. HENDERSON.

William B. Henderson is conducting a successful wholesale business in the manufacture of cigars at Paxton, enjoying a large local trade, the product of his factory being almost wholly utilized throughout the surrounding district. He was born in Logan county, Ohio, December 3, 1855, his parents being Charles E. and Anna (Boggs) Henderson, who were natives of Virginia and Ohio respectively.

The father removed westward to Ohio when a young man and engaged in business as a saddler and harness maker. In 1849 he was among the argonauts who went to California in search of the golden fleece, making the overland journey. On the way he kept a journal and remained in the mining region of the Pacific coast for two years. His journal contains much of interest. With friends he started from his Ohio home, and from Independence, Missouri, then a frontier town of about three thousand people, started in a wagon train across the plains. They were not long in getting out upon that great open stretch of the country where there was nothing to be seen for miles indicating the habitation or existence of white men. On their journey they met Indians and saw herds of deer and buffaloes. At times they traveled along streams which were

bordered by timber, which furnished material for fire, while the stream gave them a good supply of water. As they proceeded westward prices became very high. They thought that four dollars a week for board charged in western Missouri was very high and a dollar for ferrying a wagon and twenty-five cents for a team was much in advance of prices that they had formerly known. On reaching Salt Lake, however, the Mormons charged them four dollars for ferrying the wagon across. They made their way through the Rockies in the midst of mountain scenery of picturesque grandeur, but required much hard climbing for the teams and men.

Mr. Henderson was quite successful in California and after two years spent there returned by way of the Isthmus of Panama in 1852. He went through all the experiences of frontier mining life and met many hardships and difficulties. On one occasion on the trip they had to hang a man for stealing food after the party had agreed to eat only a certain amount per day as the supply was becoming exhausted. In 1853, soon after his return, Mr. Henderson was married and unto him and his wife were born three children: William B., Harry B. and Jennie B., the last named the wife of C. H. Langford, of Paxton. Mr. Henderson died September 15, 1891, at the age of sixty-six years, while his widow is still living in Paxton. He took quite an active interest in politics and was serving as county supervisor at the time of the erection of the present jail and sheriff's residence about 1870. It was in 1864 that he became a resident of Illinois, taking up his abode in Paxton, where he remained until called to his final rest. He was one of the early settlers here and the place was known as Prospect City. As the years passed he met with creditable and satisfactory success in his business, being engaged in farming and stock-raising. All who knew him respected him for his many sterling traits of character and his genuine worth.

William B. Henderson was largely educated in the public schools of Paxton and in early life he was associated with his father in various business pursuits. In 1877 he went to the west, settling in Kansas City, Missouri, where he resided for seventeen years and during that time was connected with different business enterprises, in some of which he met with good success. In 1893, however, he returned to Paxton and established a wholesale cigar manufactory, manufacturing a high grade of cigars, which found a ready sale in Paxton and the surrounding towns, nearly the entire product being consumed by the home market. He is an energetic, enterprising business man, constantly watchful of opportunities pointing to success, while his methods are thoroughly reliable and trustworthy.

In 1895 Mr. Henderson was married to Miss Laura Oakey, a native of southwestern Missouri and a daughter of N. W. and Elizabeth Oakey, both of whom are now deceased. In his fraternal relations Mr. Henderson is connected with Paxton Lodge, No. 416, A. F. & A. M.; Ford Chapter, No. 113, R. A. M.; and Mount Olivet Commandery, No. 38, K. T. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and several other fraternal organizations. He is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at Paxton and is connected with the Woodmen and the Red Men. His wife is a member of the Congregational church. Mr. Henderson takes an active interest in politics, being a life-long republican and yet he has never been an office seeker but gives stalwart support to many measures for the benefit of his party and for the community at large. He is always found in the forefront among those who advocate progressive public measures and his labors in behalf of the community have been far-reaching and beneficial.

JOHN KEEFE.

The agricultural interests of Ford county are well represented by John Keefe, who owns and operates a well improved property, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, situated on section 2, Pella township. It is also the place of his birth, his natal day being July 31, and the year 1879. His parents were John and Katherine Keefe, the former a native of Ireland, while the latter was born in Troy, New York. The father settled in Illinois in an early day, first locating in La Salle county, where for three or four years he was employed at work on the canal. He then took up his abode in Livingston county, this state, where he made his home for a few years, and in 1869 removed to Ford county, locating on the farm which is now owned by our subject. He here made his home until his demise, which occurred in 1906, while his wife passed away about a year previous, in 1905. Their family numbered eight children, of whom seven are now living, namely: Mary L., a resident of Piper City, Illinois; William, who makes his home in Iowa; Joseph, Frank and Helen, all of Piper City; John, whose name introduces this record; and Katherine, also of Piper City.

John Keefe was reared to agricultural pursuits, remaining with his father until he attained his majority, while during the period of his boyhood and youth he attended the district schools during the winter months, and later attended Bourbonnais College, at Bourbonnais, Illinois. Upon embarking in

business for himself he chose as his occupation the work to which he had been reared and operated rented land for six years. He then bought the homestead property, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres on section 2, Pella township, which is still his home. He has here a well improved tract of land, whereon he raises the various cereals best adapted to soil and climate, each year gathering good crops as a reward for the care and labor he has bestowed upon the fields.

Mr. Keefe was married in June, 1905, the lady of his choice being Miss Ernestine Wallrichs, who was born in Livingston county, a daughter of William A. and Sophia (Dannaman) Wallrichs, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this work. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Keefe has been blessed with one child, Raymond Wayne, born February 25, 1907.

Mr. Keefe gives his political support to the republican party and for two years served as constable, discharging the duties of the office with the same promptness and fidelity that he brings to bear in his private business affairs. He is a communicant of the Catholic church at Piper City. Having spent his entire life in Ford county, he is well known and the success which he is now enjoying is well merited for it has come to him only through honest, persistent effort and honorable business methods.

H. S. CARPENTER.

H. S. Carpenter owns and cultivates an excellent farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 8, Brenton township. The place is well improved, is neat and thrifty in appearance and returns good crops to the owner as a reward for the care and labor which he bestows upon the fields. Mr. Carpenter was born in the town of Norway, Herkimer county, New York, October 23, 1844, his parents being William and Anne E. (Randall) Carpenter. The father's birth occurred in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, February 22, 1811, and he traced his ancestry back to one of six brothers who came to this country from England at an early day.

William Carpenter removed to Herkimer county, New York, during the pioneer epoch in its development and there remained until after the birth of all of his children, when in March, 1867, he joined the westward movement and made his way to Illinois, purchasing what became known as the old homestead farm. His first wife died on the 15th of April, 1874, after which he was again married and continued farming for a number of years but spent his last days in honorable retirement in the home of his son, H. S. Carpenter, there passing

away on the 21st of January, 1892, at the venerable age of eighty-one years. While in the Empire state he served as supervisor and also as justice of the peace while subsequent to his removal to Illinois he filled the office of magistrate for twelve years. No public trust reposed in him was ever betrayed in the slightest degree. On the contrary, he was ever loyal to the public welfare and his labors were an element in promoting the progress of the community in which he lived. His political allegiance was given to the whig party until its dissolution. In 1860 he cast his ballot for Abraham Lincoln and was afterward a staunch republican until his death. Both he and his wife were interested members of the Methodist church and took an active part in the work of the church, largely promoting its upbuilding and extending its influence through their efforts. Their lives, so upright and honorable on all occasions, cause their memory to be cherished while their example is one worthy of emulation. Their family numbered six children, of whom three are still living: Charles P., who is in California; H. S., of this review; and Harriet F., the wife of Samuel Pope, living in Steele county, North Dakota. Three of the number are now deceased and the family has the unusual record of three sisters marrying three brothers of the Pope family.

H. S. Carpenter remained with his father until he had attained adult age. His education was acquired in the schools of the Empire state and when not busy with his text-books he worked in the fields, becoming familiar with the best methods of tilling the soil and caring for the crops. On starting out in life on his own account he chose the occupation to which he had been reared as his vocation and for fourteen years rented land from his father, bringing the farm under a high state of cultivation and securing a good income as the result of his diligence. On the expiration of that period he bought the farm where he now lives, comprising eighty acres, to which he afterward added an additional tract of eighty acres, so that he now has a quarter section in Brenton township. He was formerly largely engaged in handling stock, buying, feeding and shipping cattle until recent date. He now carries on general agricultural pursuits and the splendid appearance of his farm is indicative of his practical and progressive ideas concerning modern agricultural methods. He was one of the organizers of the Piper City Fair and Driving Association and formerly served as its secretary. He has also been secretary of the Brenton & Pella Farmers Mutual Insurance Company since it was organized.

On the 16th of December, 1869, in Piper City, Mr. Carpenter was married to Miss Mary A. Carpenter, a daughter of Joseph Carpenter, one of the oldest residents of the village. Her mother is still living at the advanced age of

eighty-five years and makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Carpenter. She is still very active, possessing remarkable health and strength for one of her years. The marriage of our subject and his wife has been blessed with five children: Winnefred A., who for several years engaged in teaching music and is now at home with her parents; Dora M., the wife of E. E. Bishop, who is living in Brenton township; Hulda, the wife of R. R. Meents; Georgie V., who is a school teacher and lives at home; and Josephine M., yet with her parents. The children have all been provided with good educational privileges. Mrs. Bishop is a graduate of the Onarga Seminary and for several years was engaged in teaching school and the youngest daughter is likewise a graduate of Onarga Seminary.

The republican party receives from Mr. Carpenter a stalwart support. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln and has upheld the party platform since that time. He is now township clerk and has held the office for twenty years, a fact which is indicative of his faithfulness and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen, who feel that they could secure no better incumbent for the office. He has also been school director for twenty-two years. Fraternally he is connected with the Masonic lodge at Piper City, having filled all of its chairs and is one of its exemplary representatives. He has likewise been a member of the Odd Fellows society for ten years. He takes an active and helpful interest in all public matters, especially those calculated to prove a benefit to his community and his cooperation can be counted upon to further any movement for the public good. During his entire residence in this county his record has been such as to win for him the esteem and regard of those with whom he has come in contact, while in business circles he has made an enviable record for commercial integrity.





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